

'PLO agreed to join Mideast talks'

CAIRO (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has agreed to take part in Middle East peace talks based on President Reagan's plan and other initiatives, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali said Sunday. He told reporters after briefing President Hosni Mubarak on his talks earlier Sunday with Abul Zaim, a senior PLO official, that this was a leap forward in efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East region. The Reagan plan proposed Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan but opposed the creation of a Palestinian state. Mr. Ali said that talks on peace plans and the PLO's agreement with Jordan indicated that the organisation was now charting out a balanced attitude to attain peace.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز بوليتيكي يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Death toll rises to 1,540 in Dhamar

SANAA, North Yemen (R) — The death toll in last Monday's earthquake in Dhamar province has risen to 1,540 people, with more victims still buried under the rubble, officials said Sunday. Officials expect the total of deaths to exceed 2,000. The injured number 1,550 so far and 400,000 people have been made homeless. The earthquake, measuring six on the Richter scale, buried entire villages. The homeless are being sheltered in tents and relief supplies, including medicine, food and blankets, are pouring in from all over the world. The officials said it would take another two weeks to assess fully the casualties and the damage caused by the earthquake, the first in the Red Sea country's modern history.

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Arafat approves Col. Khatib as PLO commander in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan Col. Na'im Al Khatib has been confirmed in his post according to a decision issued by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, a report in Al Ra'i newspaper said Sunday. Col. Khatib joined the PLA in 1968 and has been serving as PLA acting commander in Jordan since 1979. According to the paper Col. Khatib's confirmation as PLA commander took place during Mr. Arafat's recent visit to Jordan.

ABU to establish monitoring station in Amman

TUNIS (Petra) — An Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) meeting in Tunis ended Sunday with a decision to establish a monitoring station in Amman and a centre for the exchange of news and radio programmes in Algiers. The three-day meeting also issued other recommendations and resolutions aimed at promoting Arab broadcasting. The delegates endorsed ABU's budget for 1983 which amounts to \$1.83 million and re-elected Abdullah Shagroun as ABU's secretary general for another four-year term. They also decided to organise a seminar on in the coming year to discuss the role of beamed radio broadcasts. Several foreign experts are to take part in the seminar to help Arab specialists to draw up plans for developing Arab radio broadcasts. Radio Jordan Director General Nasouh Al Majali represented Jordan at the meeting.

Jordanian health delegation starts talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — A Jordanian health delegation Sunday opened talks with Iraqi officials on ways of unifying the two countries' preventive health systems and organising other health related affairs. At the meeting the Jordanian delegation examined the Iraqi health system in the light of a new law organising health services in Iraq. The Jordanian side to the talks is led by Health Under-Secretary Dr. Suleiman Al Subeithi.

Romania calls for Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — At the national conference of the Romanian Communist Party which ended in Bucharest on Saturday, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu made new reference to the Middle East conflict, emphasising the necessity of a global and comprehensive solution to be achieved, of Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied after the 1967 war. President Ceausescu said it is necessary to act for the convening of an international conference with the participation of all interested states including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In the negotiations framework all the proposals worked out, both by the Arab states, other states and, obviously by the parties directly involved, should be taken into consideration, he said. It is necessary to set out from the very fact that an independent Palestinian state has to exist, and the existence of Israel should be assured, the president added.

Arab League lifts boycott of 32 companies

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League lifted its boycott Saturday of 32 companies that, it said, had decided to stop trading with Israel. A source close to the boycott office's 48th liaison officers' conference said Saturday that the companies were based in Britain, France, West Germany, India, Kenya, Switzerland and the United States.

Hussein arrives in Washington for talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Washington Saturday night for talks next week with President Reagan on Middle East peace negotiations.

The King's plane landed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, South of Washington, a base spokesman said.

The King has spent the past week in Los Angeles and Hawaii. He is scheduled to meet Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday and will see President Reagan at the White House on Tuesday.

Upon arrival, the King said: "I hope that this visit will enable us to have the opportunity to talk with our friends on all issues of mutual concern and may, too, contribute to a better future for generations to come in our part of the world, and for the cause of a just, honourable and durable peace in our area."

President Ronald Reagan,

whose Middle East peace plan calls for a Jordanian-Palestinian "association" on the occupied West Bank, and Gaza Strip has encouraged Jordan to join the peace process. Of the Arab countries, only Egypt has so far been represented.

On Friday, a ranking U.S. official pressed that issue, by saying the United States hoped to widen the peace process "soon" with the inclusion of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

That statement came after a week of intensive contacts between Jordanian officials and Palestinian representatives in Amman. In some circles, it was believed that the two sides were close to agreeing on a means of joint Jordanian-Palestinian representation in Middle East forums.

Although Mr. Reagan's plan is largely dependent on Jordan's entry into peace talks, Washington and Amman still differ deeply over King Hussein's call for an independent Palestinian state.

Moreover, the high U.S. official himself said King Hussein may not yet be prepared to commit himself on Jordan's participation in peace talks.

Still, the United States is expecting a great deal from the King's visit. Mr. Reagan himself illustrated this, by saying in his weekly radio interview:

"King Hussein is not only a very intelligent and responsible leader, but he is also very sensitive to all the problems involved, (and) very desirous to reach peace. We can count on him for that."

King Hussein was accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the ministers of court, foreign affairs and information as well as the armed forces commander in chief.

Hassan: Israel plans to swallow all Arab lands

IRBID (Petra) — "Israel has launched a race against time to establish new settlements in the occupied Arab territories and plans to swallow all Arab land," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said here Sunday.

In a lecture he delivered at Yarmouk University at the opening of ceremonies entitled the "Cultural Season," Prince Hassan said that the "Zionists, working under the slogan 'work and land' constitute a serious threat to the Arabs beyond the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

"The Zionists are at present working hard to impose the will of Jewish minorities on the Arab majority in Palestine and to create sectarian and racial hatreds and conflicts that would enable them to dominate the whole Arab region," Prince Hassan said.

"So far the Zionist movement has established 1032 settlements in occupied Palestine including 30 in the Jerusalem region over the past 10 years, creating a de facto annexation of the Holy City and making negotiations for a future settlement hard to achieve," the Prince added.

"Israel's relentless endeavours to establish new settlements and annex more Arab land," he said, "manifest a race against time to consolidate its existence in Arab land and perpetuate its occupation of the West Bank."

At present, Prince Hassan said, Israeli authorities are attempting to settle some 120,000 Jews within a three-year plan.

Nearly 110,000 Jewish settlers now inhabit the West Bank of whom 90,000 live in settlements around Jerusalem, he added.

"In order to attain its objectives, Israel has confiscated 2,394,000 dunums of West Bank land and brought nearly 43.5 per cent of Palestine under its control, Prince Hassan pointed out.

Furthermore, he said, "the Zionists are now evicting the Arab inhabitants from their homeland to pave the way for more settlements, and are going ahead with plans to link the services and administration of Arab towns and village councils with the Israeli administration."

Prince Hassan said that Jordan, with its "unique geographical position and its firm national stand is a permanent source of concern and

worry for Israel whose leaders believe that any political, economic or intellectual progress achieved in Jordan will be a threat to Israel.

"The Israelis believe that Israel has throughout history been threatened by the territory lying east of the Jordan River," he added. "This concept has driven Israel into working towards the creation of an alternative homeland for the Palestinians outside Palestine," he said.

In his lecture Prince Hassan called for mobilising all Arab potentials to confront Israel's threats. He also called on all concerned to work towards a proper exploitation of land and for the redistribution of population and resources in Jordan.

At the outset of the session, Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran made a speech welcoming Prince Hassan and praising his participation in Jordan's economic, cultural and scientific activities.

Attending the lecture were officials, university deans, teachers and students and a big public audience.

Jordan bears ideals of great Arab revolt, page 8

Israel is imposing restrictions on troops, says UNIFIL commander

BEIRUT (R) — The commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) complained in an interview published Sunday of restrictions imposed on his troops' activities in South Lebanon by the Israeli army, which overran their area during this summer's invasion of Lebanon.

"UNIFIL is now not allowed to fly its helicopters freely," Lt. Gen. William Callaghan of Ireland told the Beirut English-language weekly newspaper Monday Morning.

"It is not allowed to travel to Beirut except in convoy, and it

cannot visit Tyre or Zahran or Saida (Sidon) unless it is accompanied by liaison officers." All the places mentioned are outside the UNIFIL zone.

Gen. Callaghan described this "lack of freedom" as the main problem facing UNIFIL, a force of some 6,500 troops from 11 nations sent to the area after an Israeli incursion in 1978.

The U.N. force could not visit Tyre "even in response to a specific request by the Lebanese government for assistance to the hospital in Tyre or a specific request by the Lebanese authorities to help... to tidy up the place," he

said. UNIFIL's mandate had been extended in June to let it extend humanitarian assistance to Tyre, but the Israelis had forbidden it to operate outside its area, he said.

He defended the force against charges that it had failed to prevent the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

"Did somebody expect a peace-keeping force which was not mandated, armed, organised or equipped for the job to stop a military invasion by a U.N. member who opted out of cooperation? No. I don't think so," he said.

Chinese premier to arrive in Cairo today

CAIRO (R) — Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang arrives in Cairo Monday on a four-day visit to Egypt for talks expected to focus on Middle East peace proposals, military assistance and trade relations.

It is the first visit to Egypt by a Chinese prime minister for 19 years, and the first leg of a month-long ten-nation tour of Africa.

Chinese officials attach great importance to the visit, but Western diplomats said it was mainly an effort to boost China's projection of itself as a champion of the Third World.

On the Middle East both Egypt and China already agree on the urgency of reaching a peaceful settlement but differ over their assessment of various peace proposals, the diplomats said.

Chinese officials were reported to fully support the Arab peace plan which implicitly recognises Israel's right to exist and calls for the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Egypt hailed it as a shift in Arab strategies but said it was lacking in mechanism. U.S. President Reagan's plan for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan is believed to have Egypt's full support.

Diplomats believe Egypt's position is bound to clash with that of China. When an Arab League delegation visited Peking earlier this month Mr. Zhao accused Washington of ignoring Palestinian rights and compliance with Israel.

President Mubarak and Mr. Zhao were expected to be in full agreement on other subjects. China is promoting a new image of itself as a developing country independent of either superpower and President Mubarak has been striving to revive Egypt's image in the Third World as a leading non-aligned country.

According to official sources, Egypt hopes Mr. Zhao's visit will strengthen joint cooperation, especially in military affairs. China is a major spare-parts supplier for



U.S. officials welcome His Majesty King Hussein at Andrews Air Force Base upon his arrival Sunday. (A.P. wirephoto)

Israel clears obstacle for talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Sunday dropped its demand that Jerusalem be a venue for talks on withdrawing foreign forces from Lebanon, a government spokesman said.

This removes the main obstacle to opening negotiations.

Israel had been insisting on holding negotiations partly in Jerusalem, a demand rejected by the Lebanese who wanted to avoid giving the impression that they recognised the city as Israel's capital.

Cabinet sources said the United States has been exerting considerable pressure on Mr. Begin to soften his stance on the Jerusalem issue.

The Israeli concession was made possible by an agreement on normalising relations with Lebanon reached by Defence Minister

Ariel Sharon last week, the sources added.

Mr. Sharon said he met Lebanese officials acting with the full knowledge and approval of President Amin Gemayel, but Lebanese spokesmen have denied that such contacts took place.

Mr. Sharon Sunday presented a three-page, unsigned document to the cabinet, proposing a non-belligerence pact between Israel and Lebanon, the sources said.

It also provides for open borders and trading relations between the two countries and special security arrangements in a zone 45 kilometres wide, north of the international border.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben Meir said Sunday direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon could begin within days, and Israel would shortly appoint

its negotiating team.

Lebanese reaction

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese government spokesman welcomed a decision by the Israeli cabinet Sunday to drop its demand that negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon should be held partly in Jerusalem.

"This step opens the way towards a great possibility for beginning negotiations on the recent American suggestions for ending the crisis in Lebanon," the spokesman told Reuters.

He did not elaborate on the suggestions.

Lebanon wants Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces to withdraw from its territory, but has refused to hold talks in Jerusalem so as not to lend weight to Israel's declaration of the city as its capital.

Chatti leaves for Jakarta

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Habib Chatti, on a tour of Asian countries, left here for Jakarta Sunday after a three-day visit.

Mr. Chatti, who held talks with Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie on Friday, will return later this week for a two-day stopover en route to Pakistan and will meet with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad.

Mr. Chatti's discussions with Tan Sri Ghazali focused on efforts to be taken by a seven-nation Islamic peace mission to try to settle the 27-month-old Iran-Iraq war. Malaysia is a member of the group.

Previous efforts by the OIC to end the war proved fruitless despite a number of missions to Tehran and Baghdad.

Mr. Chatti also met former Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman during his stay, the OIC's first secretary-general, and visited the site of a proposed international Islamic university.

U.S. Senate approves emergency bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Sunday approved an emergency spending bill that includes conditional funds for the controversial MX nuclear missile and a \$1.2 billion public works jobs programme.

Meeting in a rare Sunday session, the Senate voted 63 to 31 for a catch-all appropriations bill necessary to allow the government to open for business Monday.

John East, Republican of North Carolina, held up passage of the spending bill for several hours Saturday night with his filibuster in opposition to President Reagan's proposal to raise petrol taxes by five cents a gallon to pay for highway repairs.

He abandoned his tactics in the nearly hours of the morning and House and Senate negotiators agreed to work Sunday to iron out differences in their versions of the funding bill.

The Senate version of the omni-

bus bill calls for a \$1.2 billion jobs programme, compared to the \$5.4 billion House plan.

Mr. Reagan adamantly opposes both jobs programmes.

Congress must also decide whether to accept the Senate's conditional approval of proposed production funds for the MX missile. The rider attached by senators was that Congress must first approve a basing system for the MX.

Providing other senators do not resume a filibuster on the petrol tax, the Senate expects to pass the omnibus funding bill to allow government agencies to spend money until March 15.

Congress was to have finished its business on Friday, but failed to meet that deadline because of lengthy debates on the petrol tax, the jobs programme and the MX missile.

The emergency legislation is necessary because not all of the 13 regular appropriation bills for

Soviets welcome Jordan-PLO talks

BEIRUT (R) — A leading Soviet expert on the Middle East, in an interview published Sunday, welcomed talks between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan which pro-Soviet Palestinian groups have criticised.

Yevgeny Primakov, director of the Soviet Institute of Oriental Studies, also told the Beirut English-language weekly "Monday Morning" that Moscow viewed the American-French-Italian force in Beirut with "restraint growing into suspicion."

After several rounds of talks, the PLO and Jordan said last week that there should be a special relationship between Jordan and any Palestinian entity. This prompted a hostile reaction from radical Palestinian groups based in Syria, the Soviet Union's chief ally in the Middle East.

"I think that these talks are a positive factor," Mr. Primakov said. "If the PLO wants to solve this question together with Jordan... no one should impede their efforts."

He added the proviso "that their accord would not deprive the Palestinians of their right to self-determination and a national home, but would facilitate the implementation of this right."

Of the multinational force helping the Lebanese army assume control of Beirut following the evacuation of Palestinian commandos last summer, Mr. Primakov said the Soviet attitude "can be characterised as restrictive growing into suspicion."

He said France and Italy might have wanted to ensure the safe departure of the Palestinian fighters but he did not think the U.S. proceeded only, if at all, from these considerations.

Mr. Primakov denied that the Soviet Union had failed its Palestinian and Lebanese leftist allies during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, or that Kremlin prestige had suffered from the withdrawal of PLO and Syrian forces from Beirut.

Portuguese prime minister resigns

LISBON (R) — Portugal's right-wing coalition government began hunting for a new prime minister Sunday following the resignation of Social Democratic Party (PSD) leader Francisco Pinto Balsemão after almost two years in the job.

Announcing his decision in a press statement early Sunday during a meeting of his party's national leadership, Mr. Balsemão said he had been betrayed by opponents within his own movement and other members of the three-party coalition.

Mr. Balsemão, 45, became prime minister in January 1981, after his friend and predecessor, Francisco Sa Carneiro, was killed in a plane crash. He resigned briefly in the summer of that year but formed a second government when the PSD failed to put up an alternative candidate.

His statement pointed to a deep split within the Democratic Alliance, which now faces a crucial test over his successor.

The PSD is the largest party in the coalition, which also includes the more conservative Christian Democrats (CDS) and the tiny Monarchist Party (PPM). The premier of any alliance government must come from the PSD.

The alliance has held a clear majority in parliament since January 1980, and a general election is not due until 1984.

The Socialist and Communist opposition Sunday called on President Antonio Ramalho Eanes to dissolve parliament.

In his statement Sunday, Mr. Balsemão said he had long ago decided to step down in order to dedicate himself to the PSD, but a setback suffered by his party in local elections last week appeared to have precipitated his resignation.

The Dec. 12 poll was Mr. Balsemão's first electoral test and he had said he would regard it as a popular verdict on his leadership.

The alliance only dropped five points in the voting and maintained its hold on Portugal's local government structure. But, by scoring big gains at the expense of the PSD, the Christian Democrats increased the strain within the coalition.

The three leading candidates to succeed Mr. Balsemão are former Prime Minister Carlos Mota Pinto, who held office for six months in 1979, Finance Minister Joao Salgueiro and Joao Mota Amaral, head of the Azores regional government.

CDS leaders said privately their members would leave the alliance if Mr. Mota Amaral were chosen, but added they had no objections to the other two candidates.

The decision on whether to appoint a new alliance government or call early general elections will be taken by President Eanes after Mr. Balsemão formally presents his resignation Monday.

HOME NEWS

Hassan reviews 'Arab Renaissance -- A Constant March'

'Jordanian march symbolises ideals of Great Arab Revolt'

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, opened here Sunday a cultural forum with a lecture entitled "The Arab Renaissance--A Constant March" in which he spoke about the Arab liberation movement and the challenges confronting the Arab Nation.

"Our Jordanian march under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein is to be considered an extension of the Great Arab Revolt led by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali at the start of this century, and this country realises too well the dangers that our nation faces," Prince Hassan said.

Prince Hassan called for a "strengthening of the sense of belonging to the Arab Nation and a deepening of the self-reliance concept among Arab citizens."

"We have to adopt moderate open-minded policies in handling different issues and should avoid all forms of extremism and absorb modern science and technology," Prince Hassan said.

The Great Arab Revolt nearly 65 years ago, he said, came to "express the Arab aspirations and their desire to contribute towards building up an international society."

"This revolt," he added, "coincided with the start of the Zionist

movement in our region, and therefore the Arab Revolt had to strive hard, and to declare worldwide that it is determined to maintain an Arab identity capable of handing down its noble message to its generations."

"This in itself is a major contribution towards achieving co-existence among World Nations."

"The Great Arab Revolt, he said, came to preserve the Arab Nation's unity and identity and has struggled to achieve independence for the Arabs and preserve their freedom."

"The Great Arab Revolt," he added, "had deep faith in Arab and Islamic culture and its ability to revitalise itself and contribute to human civilisation."

"Thanks to the leaders of this country, who continue to bear the message of the Great Arab Rev-

olt, Jordan has gone a long way in the path of unity among its people and cohesion among the members of the one family, despite the existence of a sectarian conflicts in neighbouring Arab states," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince said that the "Arab Nation now faces a serious threat to its very existence represented by Israel and also major world powers whose aim is to keep Arab states in a state of weakness unable to mobilise their resources and achieve their aspirations."

In his lecture, Prince Hassan also spoke about Jordan's development and its struggle to achieve a higher standard of living for its people.

He also praised the idea of establishing the cultural forum which opened Sunday and said it would encourage cultural and educational trends among the public.

Talhouni receives Latvian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Bahjat Al Talhouni received Sunday in his office a visiting Soviet delegation headed by Latvian Vice-President Robert Priede.

The delegation briefed Mr. Talhouni on the political, economic, legislative, agricultural and cultural aspects of Latvian people's life.

Mr. Talhouni reviewed with the visiting delegation Jordan's development since 1921, the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stressed the importance of finding a comprehensive and just solution to the problem, based on decisions adopted by the Arab summit held in Fez and principles laid down by the U.N.

Mr. Talhouni condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and the continued Zionist aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, and called for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

The Latvian delegation arrived in Amman Sunday on a two-day visit to Jordan, during which they will meet a number of senior Jordanian officials, and attend a performance to be given by a Soviet art troupe at the Palace of Culture.

Special council set up to settle labour dispute

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee led by Dr. Haitham Hourani from the University of Jordan has been set up to handle the case of workers dismissed from the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC), it was announced here Sunday.

The committee was set up at a meeting held at the Ministry of Labour. Dr. Hourani called representatives of both sides in the dispute for a meeting on Tuesday to hear their grievances and settle the issue.

Jordan, Qatar to sign educational agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian educational delegation Sunday left for Doha to sign an agreement on cooperation in education-related affairs between Jordan and Qatar.

The delegation leader, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat said that the agreement provides for training Qatari teachers in Jordan, the exchange of expertise in educational matters between the two countries as well as cooperation in educational research, preparing curricula and organising visits to Jordan and Qatar for students of both countries.

Dr. Arabiyat, the under-secretary at the Ministry of Education, said that under the projected agreement Qatar and Jordan will exchange studies on university education, organise joint training courses and offer facilities and scholarships for students from Jordan and Qatar to continue their studies in both countries.

The delegation comprises officials from the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and the Ministry of Education.

JNRCS reports progress in bid to help N. Yemeni quake victims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cash contributions for victims of last week's earthquake in North Yemen amounted so far to JD 1,150, according to a spokesman for the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

He said contributions came from the Amman Chamber of Industry and other institutions and the members of the public. The campaign, opened Saturday is for collecting cash and in-kind contributions which would be handed over the North Yemen's Red Crescent Society later on, the spokesman said.

Some people, he added, have been contributing clothing, blankets and foodstuff.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs called on all Muslim imams (preachers) to give sermons on the need for collecting contributions for the victims of the earthquake and to cooperate with the JNRCS for this purpose.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that all Jordanian citizens living in Yemen were well and no-one was hurt in the earthquake.

APU calls for Israel's ouster from Universal Postal Union

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Recently-held Arab Postal Union (APU) meeting discussed a request to be made to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to terminate Israel's membership from the UPU because of its "racist and repressive policies against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories," according to the head of a Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

Mr. Jamil Izmiqna from the Ministry of Communications said that the meeting of the APU executive council held in Dubai between Dec. 11 and Dec. 16, also discussed the establishment of a printing press to produce postal stamps for the Arab World in coordination with various Arab postal systems.

NCC to debate draft traffic law, amendment to public security law

AMMAN (Petra) — A draft traffic law and an amendment to the public security law will be among the main topics for discussion by the National Consultative Council (NCC) at Monday's regular session.

The NCC legal committee had completed its final reading of the traffic law and referred it to the NCC which will review it at the session which will be chaired by Speaker Suleiman Arar, an NCC spokesman said.

Also for discussion by the NCC at Monday's session is a proposal for allowing former civil servants to benefit from services offered by the Civil Service Consumer Corporation.

The NCC Financial and Administrative Committee held two meetings Sunday to discuss the 1983 fiscal budget draft law.

The committee meeting was attended by Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh, Budget Department Director Sami Qammouh and Speaker Arar. Another meeting to continue discussion has been scheduled for Monday.

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NRA bans sale of Baq'a water

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Resources Authority (NRA) issued Sunday an order banning the sale of water from an artesian well in the Baq'a Basin.

The order also said that water drawn from such wells for drinking and industrial purposes should not exceed two million cubic metres annually, and only 1.5 million cubic metres of water can be used annually for irrigation purposes.

The NRA board which issued the order said that proper licences indicating the amount of water to be drawn should be issued in advance for those wishing to exploit the basin's water resources.

NRA Vice-President Ahmad Dakhqan said that the measure followed a detailed study on the amount of Jordan's underground water sources and which included a comprehensive plan to determine the amounts of water with the purpose of controlling its use.

The study will lead on to the implementation of a plan that would stop a possible depletion of underground water or the increase of its salinity, Mr. Dakhqan said.

He pointed out that nearly 90 per cent of drinking water in the country comes from artesian wells and therefore due care should be taken to conserve it and use it properly.

The committee conducting the studies, comprised representatives of the NRA, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Supply Corporation, Mr. Dakhqan said.

Jordanian team performs complex bronchia surgery

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of Jordanian doctors has successfully conducted a surgical operation for the removal of part of the bronchia on a 65-year-old man.

The operation conducted at the Islamic Hospital in Amman is considered one of the most complex operations and is seldom performed in Jordan, according to the team's head, Dr. Yusef Khasawneh.

He said that the patient is now recovering and in satisfactory condition.

Karak to have development corporation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has approved a request for establishing a development corporation for Karak Governorate, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Sunday. The report said the new corporation will be along the lines of the Salt Development Corporation and will be charged with implementing Karak Governorate's projects.

Zarqa to have 2nd free zone

ZARQA (Petra) — A tender has been announced for establishing a second free zone in Zarqa at a cost of JD 2 million, according to Free Zone Director Fahad Al Qudus. He said that the second free zone will be established along the lines of the first which has become operational. Last week, a total of 600 tonnes of goods and merchandise arrived at the first free zone warehouses, he said.

New committee to implement food policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee representing five government departments will be set up to work out a national food policy, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper published Sunday.

The report said the cabinet decided on the formation of the committee which will be charged with controlling foodstuffs in the country, local as well as imported, and overseeing the application of specifications pertaining to foodstuffs.

The committee, the paper said, will be made up of representatives from the ministries of health, supply, industry and trade, finance and the Amman Municipality.

Friends of Children opens charity bazaar, book exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — A 10-day charitable bazaar and children book exhibition was opened at the Friends of the Children Society in Amman Sunday.

On display are books for children, paintings, photographs, embroidery and handicrafts, wall paintings, and simplified publications in Arabic and English for children.

The society's president said that the exhibition is intended to encourage the habit of reading among children and to develop their culture.



The charity bazaar and book exhibition organised by the Friends of Children Society which opened in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

YWCA choir opens annual performance with applause

AMMAN (J.T.) — The performance of the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) community choir, which Saturday presented their opening presentation of the year, was impressive for an amateur choir group which started only three years ago.

With 16 Soprano, 11 Alto, 7 Tenor, and 4 Bass, the choir, directed and conducted by Karim Babab, opened its yearly performance starting Saturday evening, at the YWCA club, where they will be performing for three evenings.

The group which started with 15 Jordanian men and women, has grown to become 40 and includes foreigners.

With just a couple of professionals, and intensive training, the choir was able to entertain its audience with several pieces, including a couple of Christmas carols, a few songs in Arabic, (one which received a lot of applause was *Badarun* by the Jordanian Composer, Abdul Hamid Hammam, and 30 minutes of Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria", which was a first attempt for the choir to do a big piece.

A section of the "Gloria" was repeated for an encore. The group has been meeting once a week for the past three years, with just a few recessions.

Proceeds from the tickets, which were sold out for Saturday and Sunday evenings, will go to charitable projects.

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FEATURES

UNICEF greeting cards: Two birds with one shot

By Claude Fillet
Reuter

GENEVA — At this time of year greeting cards may clog the mails but many of them also help millions of children throughout the world.

One of the best-known card sellers, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), raises between \$16 and 20 million every year on the sale of more than 117 million cards.

The money is then used for pro-

jects to help children in developing countries with the basic services they need and protect them against hunger, disease and ignorance.

UNICEF cards have become big business, compared with their modest beginnings, officials said. In 1950, UNICEF made the small sum of \$4,200 on the sale of 130,000 cards.

The U.N. body relies on voluntary contributions, mostly from governments. In 1981, the income from the cards represented the

third largest single contribution, after the governments of the United States and Sweden.

Along with nutrition, health and education programmes, projects for safe water supplies, which an estimated 80 per cent of the Third World's rural population lack, are high on the list of priorities.

Last year UNICEF helped install some 70,000 water systems in 94 countries, benefiting about 18 million people. On the whole, UNICEF cooperates with more

than 110 countries with a child population of about 1.3 billion.

In Europe alone, 67 million cards were sold last year, about 60 per cent of the world total.

Initially, two persons, one in New York and the other based in Geneva, select art works and visit museums, art galleries and artists' studios all over the world. Eventually, cards are selected at a meeting of UNICEF's national committees.

Designs are all donated, and some artists, including Raoul

Dufy, Henri Matisse, Juan Miro, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, gave original paintings.

"Matisse did a special 'torch of peace' for us shortly before he died in 1954," and Salvador Dali gave us an angel, says Jack Mayer, who has been selecting art works for UNICEF for 15 years.

UNICEF has been given reproduction rights of pictures in most of the world's leading art museums and has approached children's book illustrators.

"It is very difficult to find a good drawing or a painting of Father Christmas or of a Christmas tree," Mr. Mayer said.

"Therefore we contact many illustrators, because they are accustomed to working on a given theme and a given format which will reduce to our card size," he said.

About 900 colour slides of art works are presented to an art committee, which makes recommendations to the national committees.

"Our work for children really appeals to artists," Mr. Mayer says. "It also provides the artists with a unique opportunity to make their work known as the cards go to more than 150 countries."

In the initial selection, many art works are eliminated from the outset: "I can see a beautiful naive snow scene and then notice in a corner a man with a rifle on a shoulder. Well, that's out, because any kind of firearm is out for the United Nations," Mr. Mayer said. Since 1949, when a seven-

year-old Czechoslovak girl gave a painting to thank UNICEF for helping her war-devastated village, designs from more than 80 countries have been used.

UNICEF has started to encourage the production of greeting cards in developing countries by launching a project in Nepal.

The project will allow some 2,000 families to improve their income and also help protect two of Nepal's traditional crafts: paper making and woodblock printing.

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 Contributing Editor: **RAM G. KHOURI** Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAD**

Editorial and advertising offices: **Jordan Press Foundation**
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
 Telephones: **66171-2334**
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Red is not black

SYRIAN President Hafez Al Assad tried in Damascus on Saturday to explain his regime's position vis-a-vis the issue of peace, or war, with Israel. He said Syria is neither obstructing nor rejecting peace, but thought the Arabs would do better to stall until such time when the strategic balance with Israel is tipped in Syria's favour. He talked in abstract terms of course, and did not say how and when his strategic thinking might materialise into solid facts, or at least develop into valid theories. Mr. Assad also voiced dissatisfaction with current efforts to solve the Palestine problem peacefully, but gave not one good reason.

The fact of the matter is that the Syrian president's argument was not convincing. What further complicates the problem is that Syria did put its signature to an Arab document that called for a peaceful settlement with Israel, when almost all Arab leaders, including President Assad himself, met at the Fez summit conference in September.

There is little doubt that the Arab summiters could not have issued their eight-point peace plan without extensive discussions of the main subject on their agenda.

namely the conflict with Israel. Still, it may be useful to remind ourselves, the Syrians and all Arabs of the need to stay the course we all agreed upon at Fez, without hesitation, and to continue exploring all possibilities of peace, and preserving our unity, before other devastating wars are imposed upon us or it is too late to do anything about the problem.

Our quest for peace should not be taken as a sign of weakness. Strength, on the other hand, can only be the result of momentum gained through motion, not theories and inactivity.

President Assad cannot be unaware of today's realities in the Middle East, foremost of which is the suffering of Palestinians (and Syrians) under occupation and the continued Judaisation of the occupied territories. Nor can he ignore the fact that what is sought now is an honourable and just peace, not just any peace, and that efforts directed towards this end should be encouraged and supported, if only for obvious reasons. There evidently is no price for the Syrian president or his country to pay if an honourable solution is arrived at, but it would cost a lot if nothing was not done at all, and he knows it.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Arabs do not need to be told of the time factor

Different statements by U.S. officials on President Reagan's initiative for the Middle East stress the importance of the time factor, suggesting that it is the Arab side that should bear the responsibility of making the opportunity available to itself, or a failure. It is also hinted that the present chance might not present itself again for long years if it is not made use of.

The Arabs, needless to say, have expressed great concern over Israeli manoeuvres to waste of precious time with regard to the peace process in the region, and if the Reagan initiative fails, it will definitely be Israel that direct things in such a course, and it is nonetheless an American responsibility if the Arabs have to do anything with failure of American peace efforts in the region.

In fact, the Arabs have clearly pointed out the positive aspects of the initiative, and the ones that remain to be clarified; but it is the Israeli side that immediately expressed total rejection of the plan.

Moreover, Israel unquestionably started an intensified campaign against the initiative and pre-

dictically started a concentrated programme of settlement practices in defiance of a main issue introduced for the first time by the U.S. government, through the president's peace proposals.

Furthermore, Israel is feverishly working now on complicating the Lebanese issue, to turn it into a top priority crisis, overshadowing the quest of a comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a prerequisite for such a solution.

It is natural to refer again to the dangerous consequences of the continuation of rewarding Israel's aggressive policies with more and more U.S. aid. The new round of row over additional aid to Israel among the U.S. administration and the Senate, whether real or dramatised, does not change facts that U.S. policies give the Israeli extremist administration all the reasons in the world to waste time, and blame it on the others.

The Arabs cannot be a scapegoat for Israeli war mongering and American inconsistencies.

Al Dustour: U.S. cannot shirk its responsibility

The visit His Majesty King Hussein is paying to the U.S. now is of crucial importance, following complete coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and a comprehensive survey of international potential for participating in peace efforts for the Middle East. The King carries to Washington, which enjoys a particular position in the region and which is the only side that could influence Israel, an Arab peace plan, based on international legitimacy.

It is now for the U.S. to carry out its responsibilities as a superpower with certain moral and international commitments. The U.S. is now the major force in peace process in the Middle East, and has received unreserved support by the Arab side, but the positive Arab attitude is met with absolute Israeli rejection of any steps leading to peace. Israel is not only defying international

laws and norms, but is also challenging the very crux of American peace efforts in the region. That such a stand is met with a seemingly complete understanding by American decision-making circles make us wonder if the U.S. bothers to look after its image not only in the Middle East, but also at the international level, as a leading state of the free world, with all that such a concept implies, or rather allegedly implies, regarding values, principles and the rest.

Israel is doing all in its capacity to undermine all peace efforts in the region. The continued occupation of Lebanon, the annexation procedures implemented in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, including forcing demographic and even geographical changes, in defiance of all U.N. resolutions can be in no way a contribution to peace.

No martial law, but wide control

By David Storey
 Reuters

WARSAW — The Polish government's decision to suspend martial law but retain wide powers of control over labour, the economy and opposition has dashed the hopes of the church and other groups for a real relaxation of restrictions. Official Polish newspapers conceded that the suspension, due to take effect on Dec. 31, would not satisfy many Poles who wanted martial law lifted.

A former official of the banned Solidarity trade union, who spent several months in an internment camp earlier this year, said the suspension decision was simply "the creation of appearances for the West."

A Western diplomat, studying bills presented to parliament yesterday on the legal processes involved in suspension, said his first impression was "that it is basically cosmetic." Two main bills are involved. The first covers the easing of restrictions, including an end to internment, to routine censorship of telephone calls and mail, summary trials except in special cases and to the ban on strikes. The second bill internal powers which could be used to keep some people

in detention, sack workers accused of the vague charge of "sowing discord" and jail people for up to five years for possessing opposition literature.

The ruling military council for national salvation, led by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, will remain in existence though the general has said it will abandon its role as martial law administrator. Instead it will be the "guarantor of a safe transition from the suspension of martial law to its complete lifting."

Most Poles spoken to in recent days have shown little interest in whether martial law is suspended, not believing that the authorities are going to take any steps away at this stage which would radically liberalise life. "Everyone still feels disappointed about the loss of Solidarity and we don't care to think too much about politics," a young teacher said last week.

However the Roman Catholic church, a government-backed new political umbrella organisation and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa had all called for more sweeping relaxation measures. They said concessions were needed now from the government as the foundation for a new sense of national agreement. One Catholic member of parliament said

yesterday the gulf between the people and the Communist rulers had widened during the year of martial law.

The special powers invoked in the bill, to be voted on Dec. 18 would maintain strict control over workers and ensure that the authorities kept a strong hand to combat any threat of unrest.

The bill also included a catchall clause stating that individual decisions "issued on the basis of regulations binding under martial law retain their legal force." Western diplomats said this appeared to give the authorities a mechanism for, among other things, keeping in internment people they did not want to free at this stage, though government spokesman Jerzy Urban said it would not be used for this. Speaking to reporters as the Sejm discussed the new bills yesterday, Mr. Urban said it had been impossible to lift martial law completely at this stage — "there are still economic and other conditions standing in the way."

Western diplomats have said they believe one reason was concern that the Communist Party, battered by the defection of about 250,000 members since martial law was declared, may not be strong enough to resume power without a military clutch.

DE FACTONOMICS

Who manages our companies?

By T.A. Jaber

The development of economic activities in Jordan in the last 10 years has been quite outstanding as various indicators show, such as growth in national and per capita income, full employment, reduced inflation, high investment rate and improving the quality of life.

During these years, a large number of companies were established in industry, finance, construction, education and other fields. The success of these companies in production or services, and accordingly their growth, depends to a great extent on their management. What are the present dangers in managing our companies and the possible chance to enhance managerial efficiency?

The dangers are many and interlinked. One can notice the tendency to extend the family pattern of management from the small-scale family business to large share-holding corporations. The entrepreneurial

spirit should be encouraged, but safeguards should always be maintained and patronisation avoided. In certain cases, it is difficult to separate the fate of the company from the pure individualist interests of such management. If the company survives, nobody usually raises a question: However, it would not be extraordinary to see cases where a company is left to stagnate for personal interests in its fixed assets.

Holding companies have been established recently in finance and industry without prior legislation for such sophisticated enterprises. They bring with them the danger of overconcentration of economic power in a few hands. Some of these people make good income out of compensations on their membership in various boards of directors. This trend should be regulated with the view of limiting the number of boards a person can join and putting a ceiling on his due

compensations. A more serious danger which is difficult to uncover is the pricing of transactions among the sister companies. Even an outside auditor may overlook such misdealings. The Ministry of Industry and Trade should think of creating a special unit to look into large transactions of this sort. This will, hopefully, protect the interests of the innocent small shareholder.

Reliance on hired professional management has been improving over the years, though this trend may not be a definite and assured one. This is not only a matter of distinction between the ownership of a project and its management, but also a matter of how well qualified hired managers are. Is efficiency a very important criterion for the recruitment of managers? I am afraid the answer may not be straightforward.

The dangers of mismanagement have multiplied with the emergence of three

developments in the business circles in Jordan:

- The nouveau riche people who subscribe to new companies and become entitled to membership in their boards and management without acquiring the necessary experience or the knowhow;
- The absentee partners who do not have neither the time nor the opportunity to look into the detailed dealings of the company; and
- New tendency to create a company to suit the person and not the other way around.

This note should be taken as to alert the relevant government authorities to the possible problems that might evolve and not as an expression of pessimism. Indeed, management will be facing more competitive markets reflect favourably or otherwise on the productivity of the est-

ablishments. Large-scale production requires proper organisation of the stock and the flow of materials.

In addition to the introduction of certain regulations to limit the over-concentration of economic power and to protect the interests of small shareholders, other actions can improve the situation. A higher institute for management should be established to provide our businesses with qualified middle management cadres. High-level training seminars and technical meetings should be arranged for managers and board members. The practice of naming the same person as chairman of the board and general manager of the same company should be abolished whatever its merits, if any.

We welcome the creation of many feasible companies as a healthy development, but more attention should be given from now on to their management.

Shultz quietly puts his own imprint on U.S. foreign policy

By William Scally
 Reuters

LONDON — It may still be too soon to judge his performance in office but Secretary of State George Shultz is quietly putting his own imprint on U.S. foreign policy.

In his first major overseas tour since he took office in July — a seven-nation swing through Europe that ended in London — the self-effacing Mr. Shultz achieved some modest successes in containing differences between the United States and its allies.

The abrupt departure of his predecessor, Alexander Haig, from the State Department alarmed Europeans who saw him as a friend who understood their problems.

But Mr. Shultz is no stranger to the European scene and brings into office at least one important advantage over his predecessor: when he talks President Reagan listens.

Mr. Reagan, who likes his subordinates to work as a team, was always uncomfortable with the volatile Mr. Haig, who waged a running battle with White House staff officials.

Mr. Shultz's amiable, almost soothing manner and his habit of deferring to the White House are in direct contrast to Mr. Haig's tense presence and self-proclaimed role as "vicar" of U.S. foreign policy.

The difference was marked throughout Mr. Shultz's European tour.

In The Hague, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek pre-

pared his calm approach to world issues.

In Madrid, he was careful to avoid the appearance of bringing pressure on Spain to proceed with integration into NATO, which would have upset the new socialist government.

In Paris, he picked his way through the complex of French, sensibilities and apparently closed the book on a running U.S. dispute with France over moving ahead with studies on East-West trade.

In Brussels, Mr. Shultz was largely credited with defusing, for the time being at least, a dangerous transatlantic dispute over European agricultural export subsidies that Washington says undercut American farmers.

Mr. Shultz's approach to the problem in meetings between U.S. representatives and the European Community was to avoid hot rhetoric and pinpoint half a dozen particular aspects of the question where some success might be achieved.

The decision was made that the problem should not be left to agriculture ministers, vocal protectors of farmers on both sides of the Atlantic.

The secretary of state used the same low-key approach at the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels. But policy, as well as style, has undergone a change under the Shultz regime at the State Department, most notably in the Middle East.

As Israeli troops invaded Lebanon in June, Mr. Haig held back from condemnation. After Mr. Shultz assumed office, however,

came a major shift in U.S. policy. This took the form of President Reagan's Sept. 1 call for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement based on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, in association with Jordan.

But formidable challenges lie ahead for Mr. Shultz in 1983.

In Western Europe, a start will be made on installing new U.S. nuclear missiles unless arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union prove successful. The result could be strong protests from anti-nuclear groups.

New leaders in the Kremlin have to be faced and relations with China and Taiwan must be kept in balance. World economic difficulties, with vast unemployment, show few signs of easing and deep trade disputes with Japan and Europe remain to be solved.

Mr. Shultz, 62, brings to economic issues experience as an economist and as both treasury secretary and labour secretary in the Nixon administration. After that spell of government service he became president of the giant construction firm, Bechtel.

In the Reagan cabinet, he does not shrink from speaking on economic affairs, seeing them as an important part of foreign policy. He says that all through his European tour such issues were broached, with the U.S. economy the focus of attention.

Mr. Shultz is not a compulsive traveller, like some other secretaries of state. Instead he believes in giving U.S. ambassadors on the scene full authority.

World Zionist congress a disgrace

By Alan Elser
 Reuters

JERUSALEM — Bitter political wrangling, allegations of financial irregularities and vote-rigging and scuffles between delegates have marked the proceedings of the 30th World Zionist Congress. Veteran Zionist leaders said the congress, which ended on Thursday, was a disgrace. Some said the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) which convened it should be dismantled.

Zionist congresses take place every four or five years. The first, inspired by the founder of political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, was in 1897 in the Swiss town of Basle. But this congress has been so acrimonious and disorganised that it may be the last. Israeli newspapers have roundly criticised it and have quoted senior WZO officials as saying they will never hold another one.

The Zionist movement has been "choked to death by self-seekers," one young American delegate said. "It is totally discredited." Before 1948, the WZO was an important and powerful body, in charge of coordinating the political and military campaign for the Jewish state, but with independence, it lost most of its functions and all of its power to the new Israeli government.

Today its most important task, under Israeli government supervision, is to plan and build Israel's new settlements in the occupied territories. It is also supposed to encourage Jews to migrate to Israel and promote Jewish education in the diaspora.

But in recent years, immigration has fallen drastically. Last year only about 13,000 Jews came to live in Israel and almost as many Israelis emigrated.

After an opening ceremony last week attended by the whole Is-

raeli government and addressed by President Yitzhak Navon, it then took three days for the congress to agree on the division of delegates between the different political groupings. The Israeli political parties and their diaspora branches fought for control of the WZO's various departments, which command fat budgets and access to political patronage.

Zionist organisations in each country were supposed to have organised elections among their members — but few did. French Zionists did hold elections. But an official probe by an Israeli supreme court judge, acting as the congress overseer, found they had been rigged and cancelled the results.

Meanwhile leaders of Tami, an Israeli political party which represents North African Jews, tried to persuade delegates from other parties to switch to it. Tami won over at least 20 delegates and said this gave it a right to a seat on the WZO executive. The other parties accused Tami of vote-buying and rejected its demand for executive representation.

While their leaders huddled in smoke-filled rooms trying to agree on a list of candidates for executive posts, rank and file delegates bloodied each others' noses on the congress floor. Opposition Labour Party delegates heckled Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, interrupting his speech to the congress. They held up placards condemning building new Jewish settlements on the occupied Arab West Bank. A brawl ensued and order was not restored until security men evicted several delegates.

The congress has also been shaken by a report from the WZO's internal comptroller that high officials misused funds contributed by world Jewry.

The comptroller said one WZO

department, responsible for collecting donations from Jews abroad, had dispensed salaries, expense accounts, retirement compensation and fringe benefits to its employees "as if it were drawing water out of a bottomless well."

The department head said many abuses had already been dealt with and others would quickly be eliminated. In an editorial last week, the Jerusalem Post called the Zionist movement, "A wasteful spoils system."

"It has become a sapless shell, held erect not by a vision but by distribution of privileges, echoing not with values but with empty rhetoric."

MX missile still looking for a basing system

By Jeffrey Aronov
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan failed to sell Congress on his MX missile basing plan for the MX missile but still hopes to convince legislators that the weapon is worth buying. The president gave the go-ahead on Dec. 14 for a compromise under which Congress would approve production funds for the \$30 billion missile system while reserving a decision on now to deploy it.

Administration officials believe the new approach can succeed because of the effect on arms talks in Geneva if America's most potent new weapon is scrapped with no offsetting concessions by Moscow.

But they concede there are formidable problems. MX supporters call it a "bargaining chip". But Mr. Reagan says the powerful and accurate 10-warhead intercontinental missile is needed to modernise U.S. nuclear forces and he has no intention of bargaining it away in Geneva. The president also argues the MX is essential to close a "window of vulnerability" in which U.S. land-based missiles can be destroyed in a surprise Soviet first strike.

But he has been unable in nearly two years in office to come up with a scheme to base the missile, that either Congress or the military believes will achieve this goal. The House of Representatives dealt Mr. Reagan a major defeat by cutting nearly \$1 billion in production funds for the missile, although it left untouched \$2.5 billion for further research and development.

The first plan more than a year ago was to put 40 MXs in existing Minuteman silos while searching for a better location. It was dismissed out of hand by Congress, which refused to vote funds without a convincing permanent basing plan, which it told the president to provide by Dec. 1.

A few days before the deadline, Mr. Reagan proposed to deploy 100 missiles in a small area in Wyoming so that, in theory, attacking warheads would destroy or deflect one another, leaving some of the U.S. missiles intact to retaliate.

Many weapons experts, including three of the five members of the military joint chiefs of staff, said the theory was unproven and unprovable except in an actual nuclear war.

Matching

Many MX opponents say that the president wants reduced vulnerability he should concentrate on bombers and submarines, which are less accurate but much easier to conceal from attack. What many critics fear is that the administration wants to build MX to give the United States the ability to destroy Soviet land-based missiles in their hardened silos.

Air force Brigadier General J.P. McCarthy said in recently released congressional testimony that putting Soviet hard targets at risk was the "principal reason why we need the MX."

The New York Times said in an editorial: "The administration seeks the 95-ton MX in order to 'match' the Soviet first strike capability against American land-based missiles." The New York Times and others are concerned that, if both sides have such capability, each would put its nuclear forces on a hair trigger for launch at the first sign of an enemy attack, greatly increasing the chances of accidental war. Administration officials deny this and say there is a fundamental difference between first strike and an ability to destroy hard targets such as missile silos and command centres.

The U.S. would need more than 2,000 warheads to be assured of its ability to destroy the more than 1,000 Soviet land-based missiles in a surprise attack, one official said. Mr. Reagan has proposed a total of 1,000 warheads on MX, half the number planned by President Carter.

The official said a Carter directive in 1980 began the U.S. move away from a strategy of destroying cities in retaliation for a nuclear attack to one of striking at military targets. "I don't think in any way it can be characterised that we are somehow through the back door trying to sneak in a first strike capability," the official said.

He and other officials conceded it will be difficult to convince MX opponents of the distinction, compounding Mr. Reagan's task of getting Congress to concentrate on the need for the missile rather than the basing mode. The compromise plan to rescue MX, as discussed with congressional leaders, calls on Congress to vote production funds but to bar their use until it approves a basing system. Mr. Reagan has until about March 1 to come up with proposals.



Ashraf Al Awsat

مكتبة الأمل

BBC celebrates half a century of broadcasting to the world

By Stephen Powell
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's 37-language overseas broadcasting service, 50 years old this week, says its worldwide audience is still growing, despite budget cuts.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) External Service first went on the air on December 19, 1932, and says its global audience is not only still the largest of any similar service but also the biggest in the BBC's own history.

Officials are having to cope with spending cuts arising from Britain's economic plight and have stopped broadcasts to Europe in Italian, Maltese and Spanish under orders from the Conservative government.

They complain the service is having to use outdated equipment at a time when other governments are lavishing money on improving external broadcasting.

The BBC external service is now easily outranked in volume by both the Soviet Union and the United States, which each put out over 2,000 hours of programmes a week or three times the BBC's output. The Russians broadcast in 84 languages and the Americans

in 47.

Nevertheless the BBC says its worldwide audience is still growing and it is proud of its reputation for impartiality, borne out, say officials, by both the number of listeners and their response.

"We urgently need new transmitters," said Douglas Mugeridge, managing director of BBC External Broadcasting. "But successive financial cutbacks — six in the past nine years — have held up improvement schemes and meant that even today the majority of broadcasts to the Soviet Union by the BBC still go out on World War II vintage transmitters."

"Our problem is that the BBC's international competitors on the world's airwaves are not suffering similar cutbacks."

"Indeed, there has never been a time when governments across the globe have been devoting more resources to their international broadcasting effort."

"The Soviet Union has increased its external broadcasting by more than 100 hours over the past six years. Voice of America, too, is investing heavily under President Reagan."

"France and Japan, which have

never been major overseas broadcasters before, are now on the threshold of massive expansion."

But despite financial cutbacks some new investment is going ahead out of a budget currently running around 70 million pounds sterling (\$110 million) annually.

Transmitter sites in Britain and overseas are being modernised and new relay stations are planned for Hong Kong and East Africa to boost audibility.

The BBC is also using new satellite technology to improve audience reception.

One thing the world does not lack is potential new listeners. The number of radio sets has increased to 1.38 billion from only 237 million in 1955.

Much of the BBC's output is heard in the Soviet Union and other Communist countries, although the broadcasts to the Soviet Union are jammed and the BBC said this week that Poland had started jamming its transmissions in Polish.

It is not possible to know precisely how many people listen to the BBC. One guide to audience response, however, is letters.

The BBC is now getting about 30,000 letters a year from China,

yet in 1978 it received only 17 letters from listeners in that country.

The external service originated as a product of the British empire and was initially called the Empire Service.

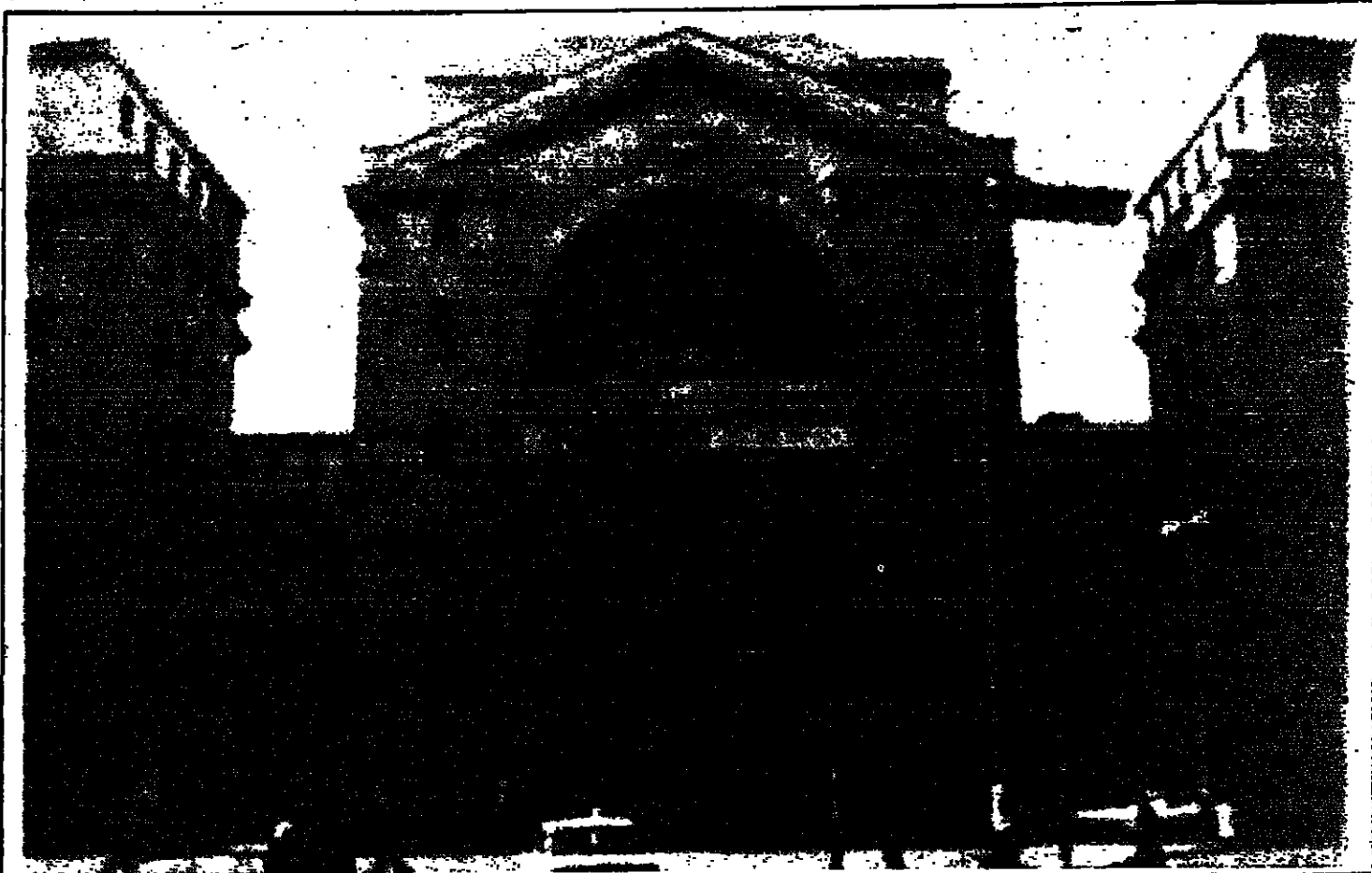
Within a week of the opening, King George V made the first of the Christmas Day broadcasts by the British monarch which still take place.

"Through one of the marvels of modern science... I speak to all my peoples throughout the empire... from my home and from my heart to you all, to men and women so cut off by the snows and the deserts or the seas that only voices out of the air can reach them," the king said.

In January 1938 the BBC started its Arabic Service in response to broadcasts by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Broadcasts in Spanish and Portuguese for Latin America followed.

"By the end of World War II the BBC was speaking to the world in 45 languages for more hours and in more languages than any other country."

For millions of clandestine listeners in Nazi-occupied Europe and Asian countries conquered by Japan, the voice of the BBC bro-



Bush House in The Strand, London, home of the BBC External Services

ught hope of eventual liberation. Although the British government has ultimate control of the service, the BBC regards itself as having the responsibility for all its broadcasts and complete editorial independence.

This independence underwent a

severe test during the 1956 Anglo-French seizure of the Suez canal, a dramatic military step that split the country and was eventually aborted.

Prime Minister Anthony Eden complained that the BBC's Arabic Service was "giving comfort to the

enemy by reporting domestic disunity, thus weakening the credibility of British threats."

Pressure was put on the BBC to suppress certain news items, but the service stood firm.

During this year's fighting between Britain and Argentina over

the Falkland Islands, fears of BBC officials that there could be a clash with the government proved unfounded.

"I did not have one telephone call or letter of suggestion or censure from the foreign office," Mr. Mugeridge said.

Space shuttle reveals ancient rivers and settlements beneath Sahara

WASHINGTON — Announcements for opportunities to record potentially valuable new radar images of the earth via the U.S. space shuttle will be sent out "within a couple of weeks," according to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) official.

Two scientific journals reported this month that radar imaging devices carried on the space shuttle in 1981 surprised scientists and geologists by revealing hidden remains of ancient rivers and settlements lying five metres in the sands of the Sahara desert.

An improved device, Shuttle Imaging Radar, SIR-B, is scheduled to be carried into earth's orbit by the space shuttle on Mission 17 in August 1984. NASA SIR-B project manager Bruton Schardt said during an interview in December. He said he anticipated receiving many proposals for scientific radar imaging studies from interested agencies, universities, industry and foreign countries.

Schardt added that SIR-B will have improved capabilities over SIR-A, which was carried on the shuttle's second flight in November 1981.

The SIR artificially illuminates the earth's surface with microwave radiation that is transmitted on what is called the "L-band frequency." Schardt said that the difference between SIR and other NASA remote sensing systems such as the Landsat and

Seasat satellites is that "Landsat is a passive system; it just receives reflective light from the earth. And it is restricted by time and cloud cover." He explained that SIR is an active system — specific signals are sent out to particular areas on earth, are bounced back to the instrument and then recorded on special "signal film."

The film is developed after the shuttle returns to earth. SIR also has the ability to "see" at night and through clouds.

In addition, remote sensing by the space shuttle has an advantage over satellite systems such as Landsat because the device is returned to earth and can be checked and modified or technologically improved if necessary.

The SIR system was developed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Schardt said the remote sensing satellites and SIR should be viewed as complementary systems. "Each system does different things. Landsat, for example, is more sensitive to agriculture and vegetative areas. It can even detect disease in crops," he added.

"Radar is known for geological structures, but we can mix Landsat and radar scenes for a comprehensive picture."

SIR-A was carried on the second of the space shuttle Columbia's four experimental test flights which were designed to assess the flight-worthiness of the spacecraft. Schardt said that flight engineers emphasised at that time

that SIR-A and other scientific experiments were "a secondary effort." Also, because of a malfunction in the operation of the fuel cells that produce electrical power on board the craft, the flight was reduced from 124 hours to 54 hours.

Even with low priority and unexpected reduction in flight plans, the SIR-A captured approximately 10 million square kilometres of radar images.

The unexpected discovery of buried stream channels and other subsurface features of the eastern Sahara desert was possible because of the radar's penetration ability. Moisture in soil normally attenuates or lessens microwave radiation over depths of a few centimetres, according to NASA scientists. However, in regions such as northern Africa, surface soils are extremely dry—some areas have not received water for an average of 40 years—and radar penetrates several metres below the surface. In comparison, Landsat images show only the reflection of light from the surface of desert sands.

Most of the images taken as the orbiting space shuttle passed over northern Africa were in an area west of the Nile Valley, east of the Libya and Chad borders and north of the Wadi Howar in the Sudan.

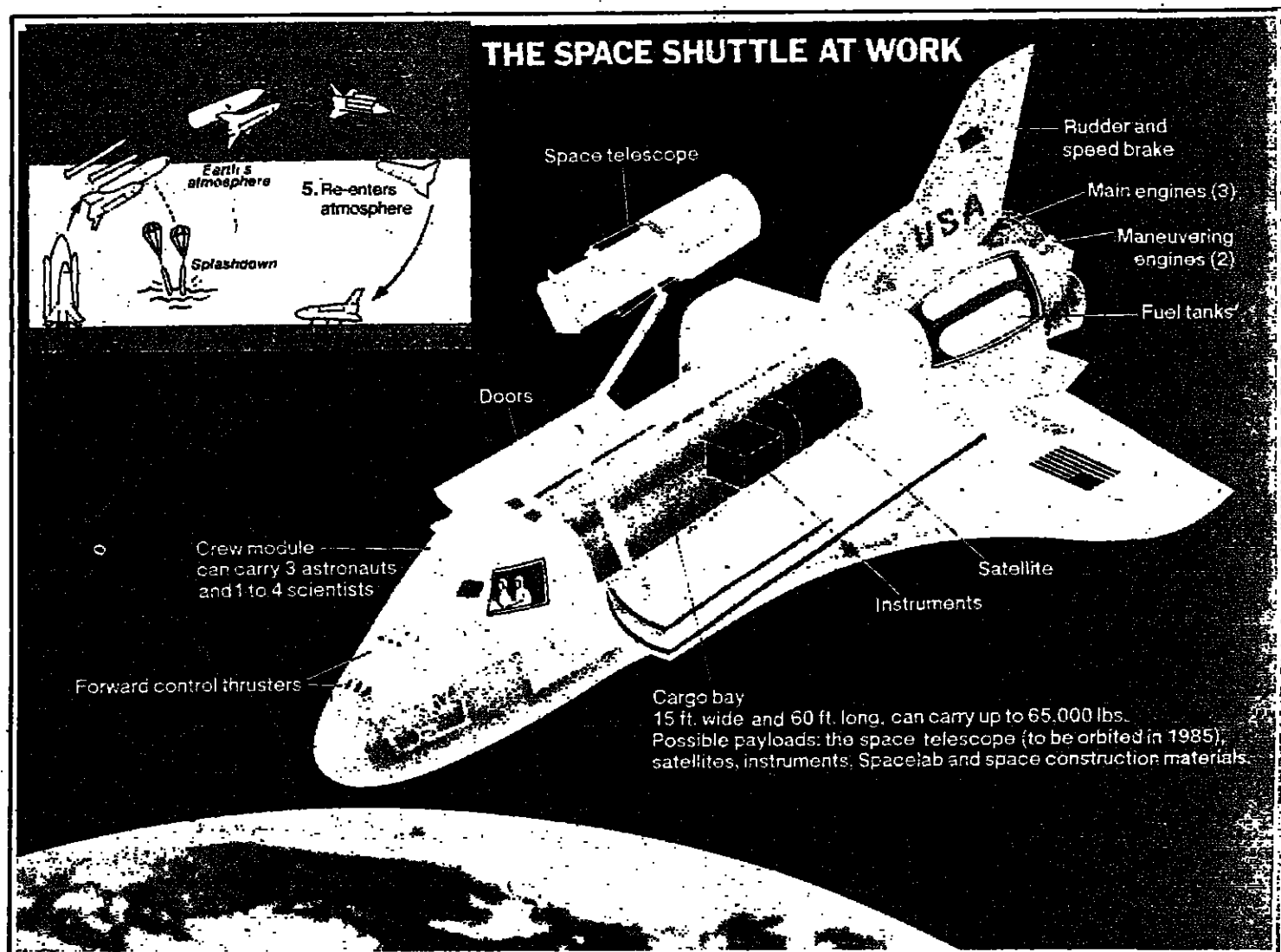
Although ancient legends told of the lost oasis of Zuzura and the great Bahr-Bela-Ma (large river without water), previous archaeological and geological expeditions had not turned up many

clues of suspected human settlements near ancient rivers and bodies of water.

Images from the shuttle, however, "uncovered," using radar, areas where investigators may find artifacts of human life dating back 200,000 years. About 5,000 years ago, the area assumed its "hyper-arid" state, and river valleys and drainage systems that may have been ancient connections to the tributaries of the upper Nile, the world's longest river, were washed over by a sea of sand.

Few areas on the earth approach the dry barrenness of the Sahara desert, but comparisons can be made with the northern plains of the planet Mars, which also are currently without streams or rivers. Thus, while the space shuttle yields opportunities to study the earth, it may also bring scientists new knowledge about the formation of other planets.

A team of eight scientists headed by J.F. McCauley of the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona, concluded in the December 3 issue of the journal "Science" that "the potential for mapping ancient drainage patterns — and, by inference, potential sources of near-surface ground water — is sufficient to arouse excitement among earth scientists, who now have a new means of exploring the deserts of the earth." Team members represented the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Anthropology and Geosciences at the University of



The space shuttle Columbia carried radar imaging equipment which penetrates several metres below earth's surface

Arizona in Tucson, the Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Authority in Cairo and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

An article on radar imaging via shuttle also appeared in the Dec-

ember issue of "Scientific American."

Images also were recorded of other geological areas on earth including the Kelpin fugh uplift in north western China, the Pak-

araima Mountains in western Guyana, a volcanic field west of Raton, New Mexico and internal waves in the Andaman Sea, off the coast of Burma.

All SIR data are available to the

public and are stored at the National Space Science Data Centre at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland.

— U.S. Information Service

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:55 Cartoons
18:15 Children's Programme
18:30 Children's Programme
19:20 Local Programme
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Arabic Programme on Women
22:10 Arabic Song
22:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: House Call
21:00 One Hundred Great Paintings
21:10 Stars and Hunch
22:10 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: No Place to Hide

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.00 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show
07:30 Morning Show
08:05 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Pop Session
09:00 News Summary
09:15 Pop Session
09:30 News Bulletin
10:10 Instrumentals
10:30 Picnic Time
10:50 Concert Hour
11:00 News Summary
11:05 Instrumentals, Old Favorites
11:30 News Summary
11:35 Spin
11:40 News Summary
11:45 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
11:50 News Summary
11:55 Date with a Star
12:00 Evening Show
12:05 News Summary
12:10 News Summary
12:15 News Summary
12:20 News Summary
12:30 News Summary
12:40 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 The Belton Est-
ate 06:45 Letter from London 06:55
Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

FILMS

* La Cite de l'Indecible Peur, at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

* The Turning Point, at the American Centre at 4:00 p.m.

VIDEO

* "Dance in America: Pilobolus Dance Theatre" (1 hour) at the American Centre at 3:30 p.m.

THEATRE

* Dramatised readings from German children's stories, (in Arabic) at the Haya Arts Centre at 4:00 p.m. Tickets 250 fils each from the Centre and the Goethe Institute.

EXHIBITION

* Paintings by Reem Jack Khayyat, at the Alla Art Gallery.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24390.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Assrian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.
Coptic Church: 4203.
Soviet Cultural Centre: 41993.
Spanish Cultural Centre: 24049.
Turkish Cultural Centre: 39777.
Haya Arts Centre: 665195.
Husseini Youth City: 667181.
Y.W.C.A.: 41793.

MUSEUMS

* Felderer Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf'a (Chadid Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists, from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Munzakh, Jabal Lubdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 66420.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, medical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Royal Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

PRAYER TIMES

06:04 (Sunrise) Fajr
06:33 (Sunrise) Shura
11:32 Dhuhur
14:18 'Asr
16:34 Maghreb
18:02 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at Amman Airport Tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:40 Dhahran (RJ)
09:50 Kuwait (RJ)
09:50 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)
10:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
11:20 Moscow (SU)
11:30 Kuwait (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Athens (TU)
11:35 Jeddah, Medina (SV)
11:40 Bangkok (RJ)
11:45 Cairo (RJ)
11:50 Beirut (RJ)
12:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 Athens (GF)
12:30 Cairo (EA)
12:30 Baghdad (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
12:45 Tripoli (LN)
12:45 Beirut (MEA)
12:50 London (BA)
12:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
12:50 Baghdad (RJ)
08:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)
01:45 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

04:45 Cairo (EA)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:40 Beirut, Paris (AF)
07:50 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Beirut (MEA)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15 Tripoli, Madrid (RJ)
11:30 Athens (GF)
11:30 Geneva, Zurich (SR)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)

WONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc 74.4 / 74.8
British pound 132.7 / 133.5
Egyptian pound 322 / 330.7
French franc 51.6 / 51.9
Iraqi dinar 591.2 / 603.7
Italian lire (for 100) 25.1 / 25.3
Japanese yen (for 100) 145.2 / 146.1
Kuwaiti dinar 123.7 / 124.2
Lebanese lira 46.6 / 47.2
Omani rial 1117.3 / 1023.8
Qatari riyal 97.3 / 98
Saudi riyal 103 / 103.5
Swedish crown 48 / 48.3
Swiss franc 173 / 174
Syrian lira 62.2 / 62.7
UAE dirham 66.2 / 67.1
U.S. dollar 570.3 / 573.7
U.S. dollar 354 / 356
W. German mark 146.8 / 147.5

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy in some areas. A rise in temperature is expected. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low-high temperature in deg.C

Amman 11/21
Aqaba 11/21
Hajjara 3/12
Jordan Valley 12/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 64 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 66111
Fire headquarters 22004-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 36141
Traffic police 56300-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 81381-3, 32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Akheh Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Dar Al-Sifa, J. Hussein 667158
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 666171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 666131-5
University Hospital 845845
Dar Al-Sifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Musharraf 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqub 93122

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (American) 240 / 200
Apple (European) 500 / 450
Apple (Double Red) 250 / 200
Apple (Golden) 250 / 200
Apple (Turkish) 270 / 220
Apple (French) 300 / 250
Apple (Starline) 240 / 200
Banana 260 / 200
Banana (Mukammal) 225 / 180
Beans 340 / 280
Beets 200 / 160
Boni 200 / 170
Cabbage 120 / 90
Carrot 160 / 120
Cauliflower (white) 220 / 180
Cheenay 600 / 500
Cucumber 450 / 400
Cucumber (large) 450 / 400
Cucumber (small) 500 / 400
Dates 200 / 160
Eggplant (large) 200 / 160

GENERAL

Dr. Ali Al Zamil 94121-667753
Nairoub pharmacy (24 hrs.) 25672
Abu Chazaleh pharmacy 25240
Dajani pharmacy 666520
Palestine pharmacy 32216
Taxi taxi 44040
Jerusalem taxi 20655
Kandahar taxi 84180
Waddah taxi 81244

IRBID:
Dr. Omar Qasrawi 5815 73121
Tala pharmacy 73160

ZARQA:
Dr. Mubashir Al Hajjawi 81217 8222-4
Abu Lail pharmacy 141-1

Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 73111
Ministry of Tourism 74111
Hotel complaints 666112
Price complaints 661176
Telephone:
Information 73111
Jordan and Middle East calls 12
Overseas calls 10
Cable or telegram 10
Repair service 11

هنا من الأصل

SPORTS

JFF decides to focus efforts on developing national team

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Football Federation (JFF) has decided to withdraw a number of football players from their respective clubs to concentrate their training for matches to be held at national level, according to reports by Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday.

It said the decision, taken at a recent JFF meeting chaired by Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar, is designed to offer the players proper training in preparation for qualifying games in Asian Groups for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The JFF board also decided: — to form a JFF delegation to the Arab Football Federation meeting which is due to be held next week in Qatar. The delegation comprises Mustafa Al 'Idwan, Usama Mijadadi and Abdul Jabbar Tayem.

— to issue a warning to and impose a fine of JD 200 on Al Faisaly club of Amman for the misbehaviour of its club fans at the recent match against Al Wihdat Club.

— to buy a car for the JFF to be placed at the disposal of the British football coach Banfield.

— to take part in a tournament for junior football players (under 13 years of age) which is to take place in Sweden between July 11 and 16.

— to appoint Mr. Mohammad Al Simadi as JFF representative at the Jordanian Olympic Com-

mittee meetings.

The newspaper said the JFF board passed the following decisions as of the end of the 1983 football season:

— There will be no relegation of Premier Division clubs.

— Two Division One teams will be promoted to premier level in 1984.

— Six teams will be promoted from the second to the first division making the total number of teams at this level for the 1984 season 16.

— The number of the second division teams will be 18.

— The Division Three teams will become 24 with the start of the 1984 season, and the fourth division teams will be increased to 28. These will be classified at the end of 1983 and a new fifth division will be created in 1984 which will group all new teams joining the JFF.

British clubs want to play with Ramtha

Four British football clubs are reported to have approached Ramtha Football Club to play a number of matches against its team in Jordan. A report in Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday quoted the club's president Mr. Abdul Halim Samara as saying that the four clubs: Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspurs, Southampton and Ipswich have sent cables to the club, requesting to play in January and February. The Ramtha club has sent reply cables suggesting that the matches be held in Jordan during April 1983 so as to ensure suitable weather condition and to have ample time to organise the event with other Jordanian teams, Mr. Samara said. Ramtha won the League Championship this year after their 2-1 victory over Al Faisaly in the penultimate game of the season.

Alexander wins NSW Open

SYDNEY (R) — Davis Cup veteran John Alexander captured his first major Australian title when he beat his doubles partner and fellow Australian John Fitzgerald in a thrilling New South Wales (NSW) Men's Open tennis final Sunday.

He won 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 after surviving a match point in the second set tie-break, when he dipped a volley onto the net but it flew well wide of Fitzgerald and in.

Fitzgerald, 10 years Alexander's junior at 21, first lost his serve in the ninth game of the third set. Alexander's holding of serve seemed to unsettle his younger opponent, and he clinched the title with a booming ace.

Sports veteran calls for revival of traditional sport

AMMAN (J.T.) — A former Jordanian national football team goalkeeper and a current sports columnist in the Al Ra'i newspaper, Mr. Nazmi Said called for reviving an abandoned traditional sport pertaining to the Arab heritage... Fencing.

Mr. Said explained that fencing used to be a famous sport in Jordan, it was mainly practised by the armed forces fencing team, which in 1957 represented the country in an international tournament held in Lebanon.

Mr. Said strongly called for establishing a fencing federation so as to support and promote this kind of sport in Jordan.

Mr. Said noted that the conditions are now appropriate to revive the sport and establish its federation in the country especially, the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Jordan is offering courses in the field and the armed forces have a qualified fencing staff in addition to many amateurs who usually practise the sport at the Sports City.

Navratilova-Lloyd clash: '82 tennis showdown

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd, the world's top two players, meet in a showdown to decide the 1982 women's tennis circuit championship here later Sunday.

Navratilova, the top seed rated world number one, reached the final of the \$300,000 event with a 7-6, 6-1 win over Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, while second seed Lloyd went through by trouncing fellow American Tracy Austin 6-0, 6-0.

Lloyd believes the winner of the event—climax of the 33-tournament international circuit—can claim the world's top ranking. "We've split the four Grand Slam events," said Lloyd, the U.S. and Australian Open Champion. "This is the decider."

Czechoslovak-born Navratilova, now a U.S. citizen, does not agree. "If you look at the whole season, I have the edge. People think the number one ranking is at stake but I don't, unless you consider this boxing," said the Wimbledon and French Open Champion.

Navratilova, despite losing to Lloyd in the Australian Open final earlier this month, holds a 2-1 edge in matches between the pair this year, but trails 18-30 overall.

Navratilova had to work hard in the opening set against fourth seed Mandlikova but seized the initiative in the tiebreaker and easily wrapped up the second set.

After double-faulting on the first point of the tiebreaker, Navratilova took charge by breaking back on the seventh point and the 11th. A service winner on the next point settled it 7-5 to Navratilova.

The Lloyd-Austin clash offered the prospect of a struggle between two-fisted, backhand baseline artists but did not live up to expectations.

Australia stuns India with 6-1 victory at world hockey meet

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia landed only their second major hockey title when they won the world 10-nation tournament with a stunning 6-1 victory over India in the final here Sunday.

Australia gambled by playing out-of-form Terry Walsh and the veteran forward turned up triumphs by inspiring success with four of the goals.

The Australians were without top scorer Colin Batch because of injury but Walsh, who was below his best in previous games, rose to the occasion in style and completed a hat-trick in 26 minutes.

Craig Davies sealed the win with two goals, while Zafar Iqbal replied for an Indian side who suffered from missing two penalty strokes and having several players out of touch.

The Netherlands clinched third place by beating New Zealand 2-1, West Germany gained fifth spot with a 3-2 victory over Pakistan, while England finished seventh when they swept aside Mal-

aysia 5-0.

Australia, whose only other major tournament triumph came when they won a four-nation event in Amsterdam last year, rocked India with two goals in the first seven minutes.

Walsh was the scorer each time, while Davies increased the lead in the 22nd minute before Walsh struck again four minutes later to put the host country 4-0 up at half-time.

India launched the second half more encouragingly and forced an early penalty stroke, only to see the shot from captain Zafar deflected away by goalkeeper Graham Reid.

India, who brought on Mohammad Shahid at centre forward in the first half in an effort to strengthen their attack, began to create opportunities but were continually frustrated by the Australian defence.

Zafar atoned for his earlier miss when he scored on a short corner play in the 49th minute, but Aus-

tralia tightened their grip as Walsh notched his fourth goal a minute later and Davies completed the tally after 59 minutes.

Netherlands striker, Roderik Bouwman scored from a penalty corner four minutes from the end to clinch victory and third spot over New Zealand.

Bouwman was the star of the round-robin competition, finishing with 12 goals to take both the player of the series and top scorer awards.

Two late goals from striker Stefan Blocher enabled West Germany to secure fifth place ahead of Pakistan, who finished in what officials believed was their lowest-ever spot in world competition.

England finished with a flourish as inside forward Kulbir Bhaura inspired by scoring the goal and making another against a Malaysian team who played with little of the spirit they showed when coming close to topping West Germany on Friday.

Lendl, Lutz meet in Hartford open final

HARTFORD, Connecticut (R) — Bill Scanlon outduelled fellow veteran Bob Lutz 7-5, 7-6 Saturday to reach the final of the \$300,000 Hartford Open Tennis Championship.

He will meet top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the final of the World Championship Tennis circuit event for a \$100,000 first prize. Lendl defeated Balazs Taroczy of Hungary 7-6, 6-3 in the first semi-final.

Scanlon and Lutz, both Americans, scraped through seemingly perilous situations to save their service games throughout their match. Scanlon managed the

match's only break in the 12th game of the first set when he took four successive points from Lutz's second serve.

The second set was true to serve throughout, although each player had several opportunities for a break.

In the tie-breaker, Lutz saved one match point with a forehand passing shot and Scanlon staved off set point with a low return which Lutz could not handle. Scanlon finally won it 9-7 when Lutz lifted a lob over the baseline.

Lendl, who has won 14 tournaments including nine WCT

events and more than \$1.5 million so far in 1982, was unbeatable on his service games against Taroczy.

He has not lost a set in his three matches in Hartford and has only had his service broken once, by Brad Gilbert in the first round.

Lendl fired in 18 aces against Taroczy, including two in the first set tie-breaker which he won 7-3. He was in such control that he never was down a break point in the match.

Lendl and Scanlon have played each other four times, with the record level at two victories apiece.

Salnikov sets world best freestyle time

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Vladimir Salnikov, double world and Olympic swimming champion, set a world best short-course 400 metres freestyle time of three minutes 42.96 seconds in the European Cup here Saturday.

The 22-year-old Leningrad student reclaimed the best short-course time from East Germany's Sven Lodziewski who finished second.

Salnikov sliced 1.78 seconds from the mark set by the East German whose time was 3:44.75.

West German Michael Gross won the 200 metres butterfly in

superb style with a world best short-course time of 1:56.18 to underline his supremacy in an event he won in this year's World Championships in Ecuador. Sergei Fesenko of the Soviet Union was second in 1:57.79.

East German World Champions Joerg Woithe and Dirk Richter both suffered surprise defeats. Olympic Champion Woithe finished third in the 100 metres freestyle behind Per Holmertz of Sweden and Sergei Krasiuk of the Soviet Union. Holmertz won in 49.62, quarter of a second faster than Woithe.

Richter was beaten into second place in the 200 metres backstroke final by Vladimir Shemetov of the Soviet Union. Shemetov won by 1.3 seconds in 1:59.03.

Dutch World Champion Anne-Marie Verstaappen scored a narrow victory over Sweden's Agneta Eriksson in the 200 metres freestyle, winning by 0.05 seconds in 1:59.10.

The Soviet Union led the men's match with 146 points, ahead of East Germany (125) and West Germany (121).

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ECONOMY

China announces ambitious targets

PEKING (R) — China Sunday announced ambitious agricultural and industrial targets for 1983, including plans for record production of grain, cotton, sugar and coal.

Peking is stressing grain output in order to feed its one billion population, while also boosting cash crops to raise peasants' living standards.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) said China planned to grow 342.5 million tonnes of grain next year, 7.5 million tonnes or 2.24 per cent above the 1982 estimate of 335 million, itself a record.

Chinese grain figures include soybeans and pulses.

Cotton production was expected to rise to 3.37 million tonnes, 2.1 per cent above this year's 3.3-million record crop, it added.

The sugar target was 3.7 million tonnes, 8.2 per cent over the 1982 record.

NCNA said planned coal production for 1983 was 670 million tonnes, about three per cent up on this year's record output which it put at 650 million tonnes.

Crude oil output would remain stable at two million barrels per day, it added.

China is intensively searching for further offshore and onshore oil reserves as deposits now being exploited become exhausted.

Foreign companies are expected to start drilling for offshore oil next year, although it will not

come on stream in large quantities until the end of the decade.

NCNA said steel output next year would fall to 35.5 million tonnes, one million less than the estimated 1982 figure.

China is curbing steel production as part of its economic retrenchment programme, with its emphasis on light rather than heavy industry.

The official agency stated that heavy industry had recovered fast after two years of retrenchment, with total output value expected to rise nine per cent this year over 1981.

Light industry has registered its fourth consecutive rise, growing by 5.1 per cent in output value in 1982, it added.

Electricity output in 1983 is targeted at 338 billion kilowatt-hours, four per cent above last year, while production of chemical fertilisers is planned at 12.55 million tonnes, about the same as this year, NCNA said.

Chinese economists say output value figures, unlike Western gross national product statistics, exclude service industries, which are growing fast in China.

Meanwhile, China's foreign trade is expected to fall slightly to \$9.8 billion yuan (\$30.7 billion) this year, 0.6 per cent less than in 1981, the news agency said Sunday.

It said imports would drop by 1.9 per cent and exports would rise by 0.5 per cent over last year.

OPEC chief urges 'rational' sharing

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) must close ranks and share production in a rational and equitable manner, Mr. Yahya Dikko, president of the 66th OPEC conference and Nigeria's presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, said here Sunday.

Addressing the opening of the conference, Mr. Dikko said differentials must be set at levels which enabled each member country to sell its export quota and voluntarily agree to abide by the limits.

He stressed that threats of substantial price cuts did not form a basis for imposing production quotas and price discipline.

"Threats are never a basis for cooperation, only equity and fair play can form such a basis. The case of the Siberian pipeline demonstrates the point," Mr. Dikko pointed out.

The OPEC president said he believed a substantial price cut, once effected, could not be automatically reversed, as other forces would undoubtedly come into play to maintain the reduction.

Mr. Dikko declared, "today we face a period of difficulty. We must act with resolve to prevent this period of difficulty from becoming a time of crisis which could conceivably engulf us all. It is no small task, but I remain confident that OPEC will persevere and emerge stronger and more united."

He hoped the conference would result in cooperation, equity and

fair play in the defence of OPEC.

The president pointed out that 1982 had witnessed a continuing decline in demand for OPEC oil in an essentially stagnant market.

"The price revolution that took place in 1973/74 was, in my view, a justifiable and necessary act that ensured for the first time that OPEC countries began to receive adequate benefits for the depletion of their finite resources," Mr. Dikko said.

"Indeed, it can be fairly said it was only then that oil in situ began to have any meaningful value."

That price revolution, however, did trigger off conservation, substitution and the search for alternate sources of oil, such as the Alaskan north slope and the North Sea," Mr. Dikko added.

The OPEC president described the 1979/80 price change as the child of a more complex set of events, ranging from a decline in real terms of the value attained in 1973/74 to political revolution, armed conflict and panic buying.

He said these factors accelerated the implementation of conservation and substitution measures as well as production from alternative sources.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani had already said earlier the oil ministers were convinced they had no choice but to defend the current \$34 a barrel reference price, despite projections that the glut will go on well into 1983.

They consider a price cut too risky a method of trying to stimulate higher consumption at a

time of recession.

After a day of informal discussions among ministers Saturday, conference sources said the main battle at Vienna would be over dividing up OPEC's dwindling share of the market and that the main protagonists were Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Sheikh Yamani said just before Sunday's opening session: "We are far from our target but moving slowly. Whether we reach it or not remains to be seen."

He acknowledged for the first time that Saudi output was down to around 5 to 5.1 million barrels a day in December as against an official ceiling of seven million.

Iran is estimated to be producing about 2.5 million barrels a day while Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Saturday, he was demanding an output quota of 3.2 million barrels.

Saudi Arabia was given a quota of 7.5 million barrels under an OPEC

agreement last March.

The accord collapsed in July when ministers failed to agree on future production sharing.

Asked Sunday if Saudi Arabia would make concessions on its quota, Sheikh Yamani said: "No, I think we did so much, the Saudis. It is time now for the others to make concessions."

He reiterated Saudi policy that oil production was a sovereign matter: "We don't associate ourselves with production programming."

Asked what other OPEC countries would like the kingdom to accept he said: "It doesn't matter. We decide that in Riyadh."

Saudi policy is to get other OPEC members to agree on a quota policy with which the kingdom would then go along.

Sheikh Yamani said the kingdom favoured an increase in the overall OPEC production ceiling to between 18 and 18.2 million barrels a day from the existing ceiling of 17.5 million.

Brazilian officials, creditors meet

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil, backed by a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on an economic programme for 1983, meets its major bank creditors in New York Monday to try to put together a loan package aimed at keeping it solvent.

Central Bank Governor Carlos Langoni has said he would seek a voluntary commitment from international banks to provide enough cash to see Brazil through the first six months of 1983.

Foreign banking sources in Rio de Janeiro were cautious about forecasting the outcome of the New York meeting, but bankers were generally expected to take a positive attitude following Brazil's agreement with the IMF last Wednesday.

Indonesia's oil-fuelled growth grinds to a halt

JAKARTA — After a decade and a half of perhaps the most rapid economic growth in its history, Indonesia's largely petroleum-propelled boom appears to have finally ground to a halt.

Asia's only member of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) is dependent on petroleum for around 70 per cent of revenue and it makes up a similar proportion of total exports.

Now the world oil glut is beginning to play havoc with the economy of the poorest but largest member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is also the world's fifth most populous nation — with 150 million people — and the largest oil and gas exporter east of the Gulf.

Oil production and exports are down to their lowest levels for a decade.

Early in November Jakarta put OPEC's already flimsy price str-

ucture under further strain when it cut its official oil prices in a bid to stave off an even more rapid decline in sales.

Indonesia's hard-pressed economic planners are now confronting what many say is likely to be the country's most dismal economic performance since President Suharto was confirmed as president in 1967.

More worrying still is the growing belief that this year's sharp economic downturn may be more than just a short-term hiccup on an otherwise rising graph of economic growth.

Foreign businessmen are fast becoming resigned to the likelihood that the seemingly endless stream of multi-million dollar government contracts in petrochemicals, refining, cement, fertilisers and heavy industry may now be a thing of the past.

More ominously, some political observers are beginning to ask searching questions about Ind-

onesia's long-term political stability.

With more than 3 million new mouths to feed and almost as many new jobs to find every year, a prolonged economic recession could give rise to serious unrest.

Further, straddled across the main shipping routes between the Indian and the Pacific oceans, Indonesia is strategically important to both the West and Japan.

Since President Sukarno was ousted in 1965, Indonesia has grown rich almost without trying, and this has done much to ensure the country's political stability.

A massive increase in petroleum earnings — gross oil and gas exports multiplied 31 times between 1971 and 1981 — has been the driving force behind an average annual growth rate of almost 8 per cent a year over the last decade.

Despite widespread corruption, and what many have seen as a wasteful use of resources on capital-intensive projects such as the \$3 billion Krakatau steelworks, enough money was spread about to ensure that almost everyone a slice of the cake, however small.

But many of the projections for 1982-83 read like a roll call of the dead.

Oil production and export vol-

ume this year will be at their lowest levels since 1972.

Real economic growth is likely to fall to around 3.5 per cent, the lowest since 1968; the current account deficit on the balance of payments will be the biggest ever at around \$8 billion; foreign reserves are likely to fall by almost half, from \$10.6 billion in March 1982 to around \$5.5 billion in March 1983; and the government is expected to record its biggest-ever budget revenue shortfall.

This year's depressing figures do not, however, mean that Indonesia is about to follow Mexico's downhill path.

A recent U.S. embassy report on Indonesia's economy concluded that careful fiscal management by the country's conservative economic planners meant that "Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves are still substantial, external debts are relatively low, debt service is manageable and there remains considerable scope for additional financing from international banks, and export lending institutions."

Next January's budget, however, is likely to be cut by at least 15 per cent to around \$19 billion.

In a country where government expenditure and investment (equi-

valent to around a quarter of gross domestic product) play such a crucial role in the country's overall economic growth, such a reduction in public spending is likely to have serious consequences for the economy as a whole.

The billion-dollar question now being asked is just how careful should Indonesia's economic planners be.

Until the middle of this year many felt (notably the World Bank) that the world recession, and the downward pressure on oil demand and prices, was just a short-term phenomenon.

Now Indonesian economists and technocrats are fearful that even if the world comes out of recession some time next year, demand for Indonesian oil may pick up only slowly, if at all, while oil and gas prices could fall even more sharply in real terms.

The government may now have to re-examine a number of its current economic policies which have made the country over-dependent on oil, encouraged a massive increase in subsidies and allocated too large a proportion of government revenues to economically dubious capital-intensive projects.

In a bid to encourage domestic

processing of timber and palm oil, the Indonesian government has actively precipitated a much sharper decline in non-oil export earnings than would otherwise have been the case. For political reasons, however, the government may find it almost impossible to change into reverse in mid-stream.

During the past few years the growth in subsidies on food, fertilisers and domestic petroleum sales has been phenomenal. In 1982-83 these are likely to total around \$3 billion — almost 30 per cent of domestic budgetary revenues. At a time of scarce resources this is a luxury the government can no longer afford.

Perhaps the government will find it most difficult to decide on the future of the more than \$15 billion-worth of projects in steel, petrochemical and other heavy industries it has got under way in the past three years.

The country's economic planners may now be forced to accept the argument that, for reasons of political stability, money might be better spent on less expensive and more labour-intensive projects in agriculture and light industry.

— Financial Times news features

Japan to open markets for foreign goods

TOYAMA, Japan (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Sunday his government had no intention of producing a fresh package of measures to relieve pressures from trading partners seeking easier access to Japanese markets.

Speaking at a news conference in Toyama, capital of this central Japan farming prefecture, Mr. Nakasone described current trade friction with the U.S. and the European Community as the most important situation Japan has ever been confronted with in the post-war era.

He said his government was thinking of continuing to promote measures already taken to open Japanese markets to foreign goods, but stressed that Japan has "no intention of working out what is called the third market-opening package."

Following a first set of trade liberalising measures in January, Japan last May announced a second package, which included removal or reduction of 215 tariffs and expansion of some agricultural quotas.

On the subject of agricultural imports, Mr. Nakasone said he hoped to take measures foreign countries would find reasonable and understandable, by promoting reduction of tariffs, expansion of quotas, and simplification of test standards.

Mr. Nakasone's remarks followed the failure of U.S.-Japanese talks in Washington last Friday to reach agreement on agricultural trade.

The U.S. turned down Japanese offers to expand quotas on six agricultural items and lower import tariffs on about 40 others. Japanese sources said in Tokyo.

Japanese Agriculture Ministry sources Saturday said the failure of the Washington talks would cause difficulties in working out new Japanese market-opening measures before Prime Minister Nakasone's planned visit to Washington next month.

The sources said Japan would defend itself if the United States complained formally to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) about what it views as Japanese trade barriers. Saturday, Japan's ambassador in Washington, Yoshio Okawa, urged Mr. Nakasone to make clear what Japan could do to meet U.S. requests for import liberalisation of beef, tobacco and oranges.

According to Foreign Ministry sources in Tokyo, the ambassador was told by Mr. Nakasone to attempt to improve Washington's understanding of the many domestic problems involved in meeting its requests for more liberal trading conditions.

4 Gulf countries agree to import Pakistani Basmati rice

BAHRAIN (R) — Four Gulf oil states have concluded their first joint foreign trade deal by agreeing to buy 150,000 tonnes of Basmati rice, worth some \$90 million, from Pakistan. Gulf officials said Sunday.

Saudi Arabia will take nearly half the rice, Kuwait and Oman some 30,000 tonnes each and Bahrain 15,000 tonnes, they said.

The four countries, with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council formed in May last year after political upheavals in Afghanistan and Iran.

The deal confirmed a policy of collective bargaining in foreign trade, agreed in principle by the council recently.

Kazem Al Meheidi, secretary-general of the federation of the Gulf Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, has said Gulf businessmen are thinking of forming a commodity import company to buy goods on behalf of the six council members.

HOROSCOPE not received

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS	35 A Gershwin	61 Wrathful	24 British statesman
1 Parishoner	36 Greek portico	65 More weather forecast	26 Coty
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10 "— a man with—"	38 Splendor	69 Long-limbed	28 Smell
14 Actor Ray	40 Musical specialist	70 Melody	30 Gehrig or
15 Aircraft	43 Malignant	71 All: comb. form	Costello
16 Prima donna	44 Enclave	72 — Ford	31 Veranda in Hilo
17 Weather forecast	46 Horse	73 Endure	32 Crowbar
20 Stender one	48 More		33 Bay window
21 Visionary	49 weather forecast		34 Holiday of TV
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23 Alley —	54 Ripen	1 Resins	39 Cages
25 Native ruler of Arabia	55 Superlative suffix	2 Friend in need	41 See bird
27 More weather forecast	58 Musical instruments	3 Object of worship	42 Hindu music
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		7 Member of a crew	51 Buzzed
		8 Truly	52 TV adjunct
		9 Turned into	55 Resound
		10 Wedding words	56 Bridge term
		11 Racing distance	57 Neighbor of N. Car.
		12 Always	59 Provokes
		13 GWTW plantation	62 Taj Mahal city
		18 Arab sailboats	63 The nearer one
		19 Popeye's girlfriend (with 67D)	64 Coup d'—
			65 "— was saying"
			67 See 19D

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"You have to admire his chutzpah."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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CEXIES

SINIST

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHICK PECAN WHEEZE UPKEEP

Answer: What a thief may do—and so arrest him!—"PINCH"

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

WORLD

'Ungovernable' Hamburgers vote in popular test of Kohl's policy

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government faced its last test of public opinion Sunday before general elections planned for March as the city-state of Hamburg voted for a new assembly.

The poll is the second this year for Hamburg's 1.2 million voters and follows a six-month political impasse in the city.

Last June the Social Democrats (SPD) lost their absolute majority after 25 years in power while the radical, anti-nuclear "Green Alternative List" won the balance of power.

Talks between the two parties on forming a working majority collapsed in October and, with the right-wing Christian Democrats (CDU) unable to command a majority, the SPD called new elections.

"Hamburg conditions" have become synonymous in West Germany with ungovernability and leading right-wing politicians have warned of the dangers of a similar hung parliament in Bonn unless Mr. Kohl wins a clear majority in March.

The Hamburg SPD has pinned its hopes on regaining an absolute majority Sunday but opinion polls indicate the Greens will retain the balance of power.

The latest poll from the Allensbach Institute puts the SPD and CDU level at 43 per cent each but a poll by the Infas Institute this week gave the SPD a lead of 47 to 41 per cent.

Both polls show Green support holding up at about eight per cent compared with 7.7 per cent in June, while support for the liberal FDP is put at about three per cent, well short of the five per cent they need to win seats.

All parties are waiting anxiously to see whether the Greens can retain their support in Hamburg after their refusal to compromise with the SPD during their recent talks.

The Greens were elected in June on a radical platform of ending atomic power, scrapping a big port expansion scheme, cleaning up the River Elbe and declaring Hamburg a nuclear-free zone. The party has said that it would rather bring government to a halt than compromise on these issues.

Both SPD and CDU leaders have criticised this stand as anti-democratic and former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt told an SPD rally here this week that the Greens' attitude showed that they were not yet politically mature enough to hold power.

A major campaign theme has been the change of government in Bonn, which took place by parliamentary vote on Oct. 1 when the FDP left its coalition with former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's SPD and threw its weight behind Mr. Kohl.

Mr. Kohl cleared the way for new general elections in March when he deliberately lost a vote of confidence in parliament on Friday, although the final decision on whether to call elections rests with President Karl Carstens.

Early turnout in Sunday's election was low, with only 47.5 per cent of votes, including postal, cast by 1 p.m. (1200 GMT), four hours after the polls opened, compared with 56.5 per cent by the same stage in the June election. Analysts said a low turnout usually favoured the CDU.

Subcontinent neighbours to start dialogue again

NEW DELHI (R) — India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since the sub-continent was partitioned 35 years ago, resume talks next Thursday on ways of easing tensions between them.

The negotiations started last January, broke down, then were put on course again at talks in New Delhi last month between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan.

Their meeting, the first in a decade on home soil between leaders of the two countries, resulted in the decision to set up a joint commission and to continue discussions on proposed peace treaties.

The delegations to the two days of talks in New Delhi this week will be led by the foreign secretaries of the two countries, Krishan Rasgotra of India and Pakistan's Niaz Naik.

Indian press reports have said New Delhi expects the Pakistanis to give a formal response to a comprehensive draft document laying down the scope and functions of the joint commission.

Details of the draft have not been disclosed, but the United News of India news agency said the scope of the commission would be wide but would exclude political and military issues.

The officials will also discuss Pakistan's draft for a non-aggression pact and India's proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

The proposed Indian treaty stipulates that the two countries respect each other's territorial integrity, renounce the use of force and resolve disputes through negotiations.

Warsaw's gloved fist remains at the ready

WARSAW (R) — The Polish authorities have opened the way to suspending martial law by the end of the year but church leaders say new regulations to replace it leave workers with little room to express their grievances.

Two bills giving the council of state the right to suspend martial law and ease restrictions imposed under last December's military crackdown were approved by the Sejm (parliament) Saturday.

A government spokesman has said the suspension will take effect on Dec. 31.

But the impact of the first bill, which abolishes internment without trial and many other restrictive measures, is offset by the second, which gives the government equally tough powers.

A regulation preventing workers from leaving their jobs without the employer's consent has been compared by the Roman Catholic church to the feudal principles of tying peasants to the land.

In a strongly critical letter signed by Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the council of bishops also protested at provisions for workers and students to be sacked without notice for engaging in protest activities.

The bishops' letter, a copy of which was made available to Reuters, said: "Such elastic formulae can lead only to the creation of a peculiar psychological terror. This could be a pretext for unjust, arbitrary decisions."

Although internment will end, not all internees will necessarily be freed.

Justice Minister Sylwester Zawadzki was quoted as saying in a recent interview that a relatively small number of internees must reckon with temporary arrest and court proceedings.

Calls by the church, the underground opposition and Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity union, for an amnesty for those convicted under martial law have not been granted.

Freed Cuban poet marries his own wife in Miami R.C. church

MIAMI (R) — Poet Armando Valladares, released from a Cuban jail in October after pressure from French President Francois Mitterrand, Saturday married for a second time the woman he first wed in a civil ceremony while in prison.

After the ceremony in a Miami Roman Catholic church, for which his wife Marta wore traditional white, the couple joined a crowd of Cuban exiles in singing their national anthem.

Valladares, 41, won a reputation as a poet with his "Verses From a Wheelchair," which were published worldwide after he smuggled them to Marta from the jail in which he was serving a 22-year sentence for opposing Cuban President Fidel Castro.

They met while Marta was visiting her father, a prisoner in the same jail, and were first married in 1969.

Marta came to the United States in 1972 and began a campaign to free her husband, calling on parliamentarians and human rights organisations in the United States and Europe.

Mr. Mitterrand took up the case, this year and sent his foreign affairs adviser, Regis Debray, to Havana to negotiate the release. Armando and Marta Valladares now live in Paris and have said they intend to settle in Madrid. But they came to Miami to renew their vows among family members and friends.

Rome daily calls FAO an 'arrogant bureaucracy'

ROME (R) — A Rome English-language newspaper strongly linked with the U.S. Republican Party accused the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of telling lies while tens of thousands of children starved.

The daily American, in a 48-page supplement, described the Rome-based FAO as "an arrogant, over-budgeted and barely effective bureaucracy."

It reprinted press articles attacking the FAO for spending too much on its headquarters administration and for rejecting donor demands to make its accounts more visible.

Robert Cunningham, publisher of the newspaper and communications director of the Republicans abroad organisation, said he planned to distribute copies of the supplement to President Reagan and every member of Congress early next year.

An FAO spokesman said the organisation would issue an official reaction next week.

In an editorial prefacing the supplement, the newspaper said the FAO had repeatedly demanded more money to fight hunger but had failed to save the world's hungry and starving.

"If FAO were a nation...it might face a guerrilla movement determined to drive the agency to accountability," the editorial said.

"Instead FAO lies to itself and to the world. And as it lies children starve to death by the tens of thousands," it added.

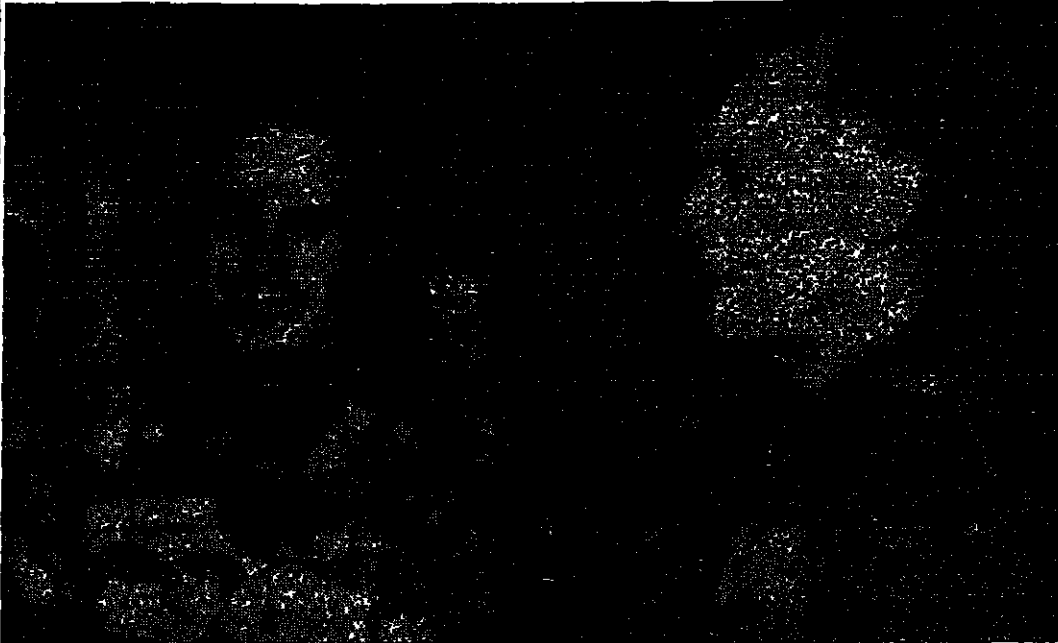
It said Director-General Edoardo Scauma's salary exceeded that of the president of the United States while senior employees earned "nearly twice the annual salaries of the entire U.S. Congress."

Until structural reforms were carried out "FAO has no right in continuing to deceive those who are too weak to know they are being deceived," the daily American said. "The scandal finally is not hunger. It is FAO itself."

FAO sources said the criticism coincided with growing dissatisfaction in the U.S. administration and Congress over soaring spending by U.N. aid bodies.

Developing countries have been criticising the U.S., which is seeking ways to pare down its own massive federal budget deficit, over delays in its annual payments to FAO and its sister body, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Italian commanders meet in Lebanon



Italy's Chief of Staff Gen. Vittorio Santini (R) during a news conference held at the headquarters of Italian peacekeeping forces in Lebanon on Saturday. Col. Franco Angioni, the commander of the Italian contingent, is on the left. (A.P. wirephoto)

Tampon fatalities in U.S. on the decline

WASHINGTON (R) — Government rules requiring tampon makers to warn women of a link between tampons and a rare disease known as Toxic Shock Syndrome take effect Monday -- but public awareness has already reduced fatalities.

The Atlanta-based Centre for Disease Control (CDC) said reported incidents of Toxic Shock Syndrome, as well as fatalities from the disease, had dropped.

CDC medical epidemiologist George Schmid told Reuters that increased awareness of the disease since it was first linked with tampon use in 1980 has already decreased the severity of the problem.

"It appears that the fatality rate has dropped," Mr. Schmid said in a telephone interview.

He said that between January and late October this year CDC received reports of 212 cases, three of which were fatal. In 1981 there were 15 fatalities in 522 reported cases, compared to 42 deaths in 859 cases in 1980, he said.

The fatality rate so far this year has been 1.5 per cent, compared to three per cent in 1981 and five per cent in 1980.

Toxic shock is caused by a bacteria. Early symptoms of the disease are dizziness, diarrhoea and sudden high fever.

The new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rule requires a warning on tampon packaging saying: "Attention -- tampons are associated with Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS). TSS is a rare, but serious disease that may cause death. Read and save the enclosed information."

Inside the package, manufacturers are required to describe toxic shock symptoms, what to do if symptoms occur, current incidence of the disease (now estimated at six to 17 cases per 100,000 menstruating women per year), and to give a special warning to women under 30.

Package inserts must also advise use of the least absorbent tampons needed and include a statement that risks related to tampon use can be avoided by not using tampons.

Procter and Gamble, the makers of a highly absorbent tampon called "rely", withdrew the product from the market in 1980 when government studies showed a greater correlation between the disease and "rely" than other brands.

Despite the noted connection between Toxic Shock and tampon use, CDC said 71 cases of the disease have been reported in men, usually connected with an open sore or wound.

Moscow suppresses peace group

MOSCOW (R) — The wives of the men who set up the Soviet Union's first unofficial anti-war group say that after six months of harassment by the authorities, their husbands are now likely to face criminal charges.

Nine women whose husbands are involved in the unofficial "group of trust", founded last June, told Western correspondents they now believed the authorities had decided to suppress its activities completely.

"Our position is desperate and catastrophic," Mrs. Natalya Batovrina said. "We want to appeal to pacifists in the West not to forget us. We are all members of a single organisation for peace."

Mrs. Batovrina's husband Sergei, an artist, was detained for a month this summer in a psychiatric hospital after helping to found the anti-war group.

"We have every basis for fearing that Sergei will be forcibly hospitalised again," she said.

The women said three members of the group, Oleg Radzinsky, Alexander Shatravka and Vladimir Mishchenko, had already been arrested.

No respite for Soviets in Afghanistan

By John Rogers
Reuters

LONDON — Three years after Soviet troops stormed into Afghanistan, there is every sign they are dug in for a long stay, with no end in sight.

Despite hints that new Kremlin leader Yuri Andropov wants to terminate Moscow's widely-condemned military presence, Western officials reckon the Soviet action to install a Marxist government could stretch into a commitment for 10 to 15 years.

It could take that long to secure mountainous, Muslim Afghanistan in the Soviet camp, the officials say.

The strategic interests which prompted the intervention in Dec. 1979 still outweigh the combined pressure of international condemnation, fierce resistance by Afghan rebels and Soviet losses in an escalating guerrilla war, they believe.

Signs that Mr. Andropov wants to find a way out of Moscow's Afghan involvement have sparked interest in the West, but no real optimism about an early withdrawal.

No concessions

The Soviet Union itself indicated this week it was not ready to make concessions on Afghanistan.

In a policy statement, the Communist Party daily Pravda reaffirmed Moscow's commitment there and said Soviet troops would be withdrawn only if "foreign interference" ended, with guarantees that it would not resume.

This referred to earlier demands by Kabul that Pakistan and Iran pledge to stop anti-Communist Afghan guerrillas in those countries from crossing into Afghanistan.

The Soviet military buildup started in early Dec. 1979 and reached its climax on Dec. 25.

Two days later, Soviet troops seized key buildings in Kabul, and ousted Communist Babrak Karmal came to power. Moscow said its forces were responding to appeals by the new president, who announced he had invited them in to repel foreign aggression.

But Western analysts saw the

Soviet action, only 10 months after the revolution in neighbouring Iran, as intended to quell turmoil in another unstable country on its border, close to Middle Eastern oil, and clamp it under Soviet influence.

Astana toehold

"They went in for reasons that still hold good... the risk of the Soviet toehold in that very strategic part of Asia being lost," a West European official said this week.

"Until it is secured, they will not leave. So it will be a long waiting game... they do not have the domestic pressures that America had (in the Vietnam war) for a quick victory."

Mr. Andropov's accession to power last month did, however, point to an apparent change in Kremlin thinking on Afghanistan, if not in policy.

Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq met him in Moscow and reported "some freshness" in the Soviet attitude.

NEWS ANALYSIS

He said the Soviet Union wanted to quit Afghanistan if it could find a face-saving device. But, he added, "we have no proof, no indications, no promises" of an early withdrawal.

Moscow's Afghan intervention soured relations with the West after a period of détente and remains a cause of tension.

The United Nations General Assembly has called four times for withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. Non-aligned and Islamic countries want Soviet troops out, and the Soviet presence is an obstacle to normalising relations with China.

The Peking connection

Western diplomats in Moscow feel that if better ties with Peking were in sight, the Soviet Union might make concessions it would not make to the West or the Non-Aligned Movement.

A continuing exodus of refugees -- 2.8 million in Pakistan and hundreds of thousands in Iran -- reminds the world constantly of

the war and the unpopularity of the administration Moscow is backing.

But the heaviest Soviet burden in Afghanistan is its entanglement in a growing guerrilla war which neither side seems able to win decisively.

Moscow has an estimated 105,000 troops in Afghanistan backing an Afghan army depleted by desertions to one-third of its original 80,000 men, according to Western estimates.

The past year saw intensified fighting with a guerrilla force more than 100,000 strong using arms brought by deserters and supplied from abroad through Pakistan.

Western diplomats say Afghan government and Soviet troops are using more bombs and artillery, resulting in higher civilian casualties, while the guerrillas are fighting a hit-and-run war with assassinations of government officials increasing.

They reckon the loosely-organised resistance has performed remarkably for the past three years but could never vanquish the combined Soviet and government strength.

The government controls big towns and the main supply route from the Soviet border through Kabul, Kandahar and Herat. But the guerrillas control most of the countryside -- and especially the rugged border with Pakistan across which they move freely.

Crushing the rebels will take years, Western officials say. U.S. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick told the U.N. last month that the long-term Soviet strategy was to couple wearing down the resistance with "the military, economic and social integration of Afghanistan into the Soviet empire."

Prospects of a negotiated settlement to end the war are pinned on a senior U.N. envoy, Diego Cordovez, who has acted as intermediary in indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mr. Cordovez, who is due to resume the talks on Jan. 18, said last June that both countries had made concessions and accepted the main agenda items -- withdrawal of foreign forces, resettlement of Afghan refugees and international guarantees of non-interference in Afghanistan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Artificial heart recipient improves

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Dr. Barney Clark, the world's first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, was Saturday taken off the critical list for the first time and doctors said he was feeling better than he had felt for two months. Though his condition was still listed as serious, Dr. Clark, a 61-year-old retired dentist, was moved from his bed and sat up in a chair for about two hours. He spoke with his wife Una Loy and his doctors and said he enjoyed the view of the nearby snow-covered mountains from his hospital room window. "Damn it, it's a good feeling for all of us to see the improvement," said Dr. Chase Peterson, vice-president for health sciences at the University of Utah Medical Centre.

Sri Lankan president to hold referendum

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankans will vote under tight security on Wednesday in a controversial referendum on whether to extend their existing parliament's life for a further six years without a general election. The referendum was called by President Junius Jayewardene who says the people endorsed his policies when they re-elected him for a second term last October. The president, whose United National Party (UNP) holds 143 of the 168 seats in Parliament, said it was essential to ensure the stability necessary to continue his government's programme. But the opposition parties, led by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, condemned his action as dictatorial.

8 Iranians held in South India

NEW DELHI (R) — Eight Iranians were arrested Saturday night in the southern Indian city of Madras on a charge of possessing false passports and visas, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday. The news agency said the Iranians, including a woman with a two-year-old child, were detained before they could board a flight to Singapore. Police said the Iranians had fled their country and lived for three months in Pakistan where they had allegedly paid \$1000 each for the travel documents.

Canadian Santa steps out of role

TORONTO, Canada (R) — A streetcorner Santa Claus, who has distributed Christmas gifts and cash to Toronto tramps for the past three years, has said he will not be in action this year in case he gets trampled underfoot by the unemployed. Newfoundland businessman Dan Ryall told reporters: "I ain't got the nerve to stand on that corner again. I'll be killed out there... half the country is out of work." Last year Mr. Ryall, 38, handed out about \$4,000 of his own money to 500 tramps. He also gave presents of socks, sweaters, gloves and tobacco -- and there was even perfume for the women "destitutes."

Electric clothes for Soviet tank crews

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet tank crews are to be issued with electrically-heated uniforms so they can operate more efficiently in sub-zero temperatures, the trade union daily Trud reported. In a review of changes to soldiers' equipment, it also said troops would probably be fitted with synthetic leather boots in the near future as these had proved longer-lasting than the real thing.

Thais make Islam compulsory subject

BANGKOK (R) — Islam will be a compulsory subject in all primary and secondary schools in Thailand's predominantly Muslim provinces bordering Malaysia, which are troubled by Muslim separatist rebels. Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsri, national security council secretary-general, said in an interview published here Sunday Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda had approved Islamic teaching as part of socio-economic measures for the Muslim provinces.



THE ARAB MINING COMPANY (ARMICO) announces the transfer of its offices to the company's new building in the Shmeisani area -- opposite Haya Arts Centre.

The new telephone numbers are:
663148 663146 663149 664175

Thabet Taher
General Director

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q93 ♥109 ♦AQ842 ♣KJ3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠5 ♥AQ1095 ♦KQJ5 ♣AQ7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10985 ♥A7642 ♦7 ♣83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ7 ♥J872 ♦KJ852 ♣6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ Dble Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5 As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠5 ♥A109752 ♦Q76 ♣954
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dble Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ4 ♥AQ1063 ♦8 ♣752
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ 2 ♠ 2 ♥ ?
What do you bid now?